

Faces of the past and present in 50s photos

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News
In 1954, cowboy actor Gene Autry stopped long enough at Goodland's Renner Field to fuel up his airplane and snap a picture with admirers.

At another point in that decade, a group of children lined up to start a Soap Box Derby and throngs of people lined up to sample the newest rage, drive-in movies. On another day, a man smiled at the camera from the back of a '50s-era tractor, with the huge progress in farm machinery evident from the shot.

This photo history of Sherman County in the 1950s is being brought to Goodland residents and visitors through a \$3,360 Heritage Program Grant awarded to the High Plains Museum by the Kansas Humanities Council.

The museum used the grant to take a collection of more than 700 negatives donated by *The Goodland Star-News* and have them developed into pictures.

The project, which started in July 2003, has been completed, and the museum expects to hold a '50s photo exhibit soon, said Director Linda Holton.

"We'll probably do it towards the first of the year," she said.

Not only will the pictures have their own exhibit, but Holton said they have gone far to help supple-



Among the collection of 1950s era photographs is this snapshot of singer Gene Autry (right) at Goodland's Renner Field airport. The caption with this photo states that Autry is surrounded by local admirers while he stopped in town to fuel his air-plane. (Above) We'll never know who won, but this photograph highlights the popularity of soap box derbies in the 1950s. These pictures are part of the High Plains Museum's new collection of '50s photographs. Museum director Linda Holton plans to hold an exhibit of the pictures early next year.

ment the museum's current photograph collection.

"It just really compliments our existing photograph collection," she said.

Photocopies of the snapshots are available to the public for research. Holton said the Sherman County Historical Society will use the cop-

ies to look up old businesses locations and research county history.

The museum first had to sort the collection of pictures several times, starting with an organization of the negatives.

"We had to weed through them," said Linda Fogo, the museum employee who did most of the work on

the picture project.

Holton said they then sent the negatives to the Kansas State Historical Society to be processed and printed on archival material. She said the archival processing will help increase the longevity of the photos, but it was expensive.

When the photos came back to

the museum, Fogo started to categorize the prints into sections such as buildings, entertainment, farming, people, transportation and more. As a native of Goodland, she had little trouble identifying each event and each person in the photos.

"We have a description of each picture," Holton said. "If we possi-

bly could, we found out who the people were and what was happen-

ing." Fogo said although many of the pictures were striking, she was moved the most by the ones of vaccinations during the polio scare.

"That was one thing it seemed like we needed to remember," she said.

She thought the old pictures of Goodland, Kanorado and Edson high school sports were another important find.

Synchronized swimming was a popular sport in the '50s and, Fogo said, she found snapshots of people practicing in Goodland's old pool.

She said the collection of photographs spans the entire decade, and changes show up in the location of some Main Street businesses. The pictures, she said, show her classmates, community parades, school events and local happenings.

"I'm happy that we have them," Fogo said, "and that they're being preserved."

For the planned exhibit, Holton said, she thinks they will select a few pictures from each category to display. She said they are excited to share the pictures with the public and they hope for a big turnout.

"I think there are enough people that were around in the 1950s that they would be interested (in an exhibit)," Holton said.

County to continue prairie dog control

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
Members of the county prairie dog committee asked the Sherman County commissioners Tuesday to continue the prairie dog poison program to keep the problem under control.

"The program did a good job," said Harlan House, one of the committee members, "but it was a good year for prairie dogs. We are asking you to continue the program in a similar manner to last year."

Last year the county put up \$90,000 for bait on a cost share program, and Daryl West, head of the county noxious weed department and the person who handles the prairie dog program, said he had about four pallets of bait left at this time.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the county could not afford to put that much into the program this year, and wondered what the price would be and at what rate the landowners would participate.

"We cannot stop trying to control the prairie dogs, committee mem-

bers said. "If we have four or five years of doing nothing we will be back where we were."

"I'd like to see you guys go 50 percent, and maybe get Daryl some help to do this," House said.

West said Jerry Wilson of the state had been out to see the new bait rig and he agreed it was set up right to put the bait down in the prairie dog hole.

"It is going to take a lot longer," West said. "About a third longer and it is harder on the equipment."

He said on one area he worked with the new setup he stopped 3,300 times in 23 hours, and it took about two more buckets of bait than the previous treatment.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked West if he had any money in his budget to help with the prairie dog program. West said he had a little money in the budget for a help to spray for noxious weeds, but nothing for handling the prairie dog program.

West was asked about the number of landowners who have con-

tacted him this year. He said there were not many right now, but many have called in to say they want their land treated.

West said it will be important for the landowner who is treating their own property to have a copy of the special Kansas label for Rozol in the truck they are driving or in their pocket.

"When Wilson checked me out that was something he made a point of asking about," West said.

The new Rozol label was the result of research done in several counties in northwest Kansas in the past year which specifically allows landowners in the state to use the product to control prairie dogs. The label says the product must be put into each prairie dog hole to be effective.

Tiede asked West and the committee about how much bait they thought it would take this year, and House said about one half of what they did last year.

West said they went through 44 pallets of bait at \$52 per bucket, but

the price has gone up some this year.

Rasure asked West to get the figures together about the total for last year.

West said the prairie dog season is from October to March 15, and that he has four pallets of bait left.

"We need to keep something going," Tiede said.

"We have put together a good program, and have good cooperation," House said. "I think we need to keep this going."

House suggested the commissioners put some pressure on the townships to help with the program.

"We want to keep them manageable," a committee member said. "We know we won't get them all."

There was agreement that the number of prairie dogs in the county was down about 80 percent, but there was concern expressed about the surrounding counties of Cheyenne and Logan plus Kit Carson County in Colorado.

The commissioners asked West and the committee to get the figures together and come back to them with a proposal.

Commissioners pick election tie winners

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Four Sherman County townships finished the election with ties for trustee or treasurer, and Tuesday the county commissioners decided the winners.

Commission Chairman Mitch Tiede said he had talked to as many of the people as he could reach, and in most of the ties, one of the candidates did not want to serve.

There was a three-way write-in tie for Lincoln Township treasurer between Carroll Mogge, Tony Sieck and Eddie Emig. Tiede said Mogge and Emig both declined the office and Sieck said he would take it.

In Logan Township, Christi Rasure and Carol Toppliff each had four votes for treasurer. Tiede said Toppliff declined and Rasure said she would accept.

There was a tie in Smoky Township for treasurer between Isabel Morgan and Greg Nemechek, with each receiving one write-in vote.

Tiede said Morgan declined, and Nemechek said he would accept.

Union Township had a tie for trustee, with Ed Ackerman and Toni Ackerman, husband and wife, each receiving one vote. Tiede said Ed got one vote for treasurer, so he suggested they name Ed the treasurer and Toni the trustee.

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the appointment of the township officers based on Tiede's recommendations.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel it often is hard to find someone who is willing to fill the township offices even if they have received a few write-in votes.

She said most of the write-ins

in the general election were in the county offices, with over 50 cast in the county attorney race where Republican Bonnie Selby was running unopposed for re-election.

Several lawyers got votes. Scott Showalter, who serves as a part-time assistant prosecutor, received 32 votes; Jeff Mason, 5; Ron Vignery, Jerry Fairbanks and Mike Foust 3 each; City Attorney Perry Warren 2; and "anyone else" had 3. There were write-ins for Judge Judy, Perry Mason, Bugs Bunny and Darrell Farris.

In the sheriff's race, where Republican Kevin Butts defeated Democrat John McCool, there were write-ins for seven or more people. Police Officer Greg Kroskey got 18; Dee Albers, 6; former Sheriff Jack Armstrong, 5; and Art Lovington, retiring Sheriff Doug Whitson, Burton Pinalto and Barry Guyer 2 each.

For register of deeds, where Carol Armstrong was running unopposed, Karen Gillihan received 5 votes.

The county treasurer race had Iris Scheopner running unopposed, but there were 16 votes for Crystal (Linsner) Wright, who lost in the Republican primary, and 2 for retiring Treasurer Shelby Miller.

Wright, who works in the clerk's office, received three votes for county clerk, where her boss was running unopposed.

Kevin Rasure was running unopposed in commissioner District 3, but Lois Cossman received 4 votes.

Tiede was unopposed in district 2, but former Commissioner Cynthia Strnad received 3 votes and bar owner Rod Cooper 2.

Economic development nominates new faces

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
There may be two new faces on the Sherman County Economic Development Council when it reorganizes in January, following a nomination meeting Tuesday at Gambino's.

New council members nominated will be Rick Breining of Sunflower Computer and Cyberland, and Gary Slough of S&T Communications.

Harlan House was nominated for another term, but City Commissioner Dave Daniels, an original member of the board, was not.

The three nominees will be offered to the county commissioners for appointment for three-year terms.

Nine people were nominated for the three board positions. A fourth position is held by Shelley Thompson, who was renominated by Bankwest. Each of the banks in town has one representative on the board.

Council member Patty Eckhardt of the Farm Service Agency, who has served as the secretary for the

past two years decided she did not want to seek another term on the council. She was appointed to the Goodland Regional Medical Center board in June.

Chairman John Garcia opened nominations at the council's annual meeting on Oct. 19, and names were accepted until the meeting Tuesday.

Nominated at the annual meeting were Slough, marketing director for S&T; Max Alderman, a retired farmer; Breining, owner of Sunflower Computer; Daniels, a landlord and real estate investor; and Colleen Smith, bookkeeper at Hank's Cafe.

Nominations were received before the meeting for Dale Neill, an employee at Goodland Sinclair, and Mike Cochran, owner of Cochran Farm Supply.

At the meeting, the names of House, a farmer and current member of the council, and Drew Rohlman, manager of the Howard Johnson's Hotel, were added.

Each of the nine candidates was given an opportunity to talk about their background and their interest

in the council.

Before the vote, Steve West, council member from Western State Bank, said he was pleased to see so much interest.

"I think this shows we are heading in the right direction," West said. "I am glad to see nine people interested in being on the council."

Daniels said he agreed, adding that it showed the number of people in the community who want to see it grow.

Council members Don Newell and Thompson collected ballots from the eight council members present and the two proxies, from members Patty Eckhardt and Larry Harper.

Garcia announced the winners were Slough (6 votes), Breining (5) and House (5). Cochran, Daniels and Rohlman each received 4 votes, and Smith and Alderman 1.

While the ballots were being counted, Daniels reported that the office would remain in the same building, with a one-year signed lease.

The council offered to host Santa

Claus in a spare office in the building.

Council member Randy Schoenthaler of People's State Bank, who is a Chamber of Commerce board member, said the room the Chamber has used for Santa is no longer available.

Carolyn Applegate, economic development director, said she had talked to Courtney Warden of the Chamber and had offered to host Santa this year. She asked if any council members had any questions or concerns.

Santa is expected to arrive in Goodland on Saturday, Nov. 20.

The council will formally send the nominations to the county following a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, in the basement of Western State Bank.

corrections

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