

Couple welcomed baby boy; teachers held meeting

By Evelyn Ward
Sherman County Historical Society
March 11, 1905: Muldrow News — A big bouncing boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. G.A. O'Neal February 23. Mr. O'Neal says the baby looks like him since he has shaved this mustache. — Work began on the Brewster to Muldrow telephone line Tuesday.

March 12, 1905: The teachers of Sherman County met in the high school building. J.R. Reed, president of the county association, resigned, and county Superintendent Fred Barnett was elected to fill the vacancy.

The chapter on spelling in

today in history

Roark's methods on education was discussed.

The association passed a resolution thanking B.F. Brown for the active part he has taken in all educational bills that have been before the legislature this winter. The next meeting will be April 1. All people interested in education are invited to attend these meetings.

March 13, 1905: J.B. Moore Makes Revelation in Methods of Corn Culture — J.B. Moore, who has lived on this ranch, 20 miles southwest of Goodland for almost

twenty years, trying always to discover, not the fabled fountain of Ponce de Leon, but the secret of success in corn and wheat culture in western Kansas, has found something worth while, and the treasure is the key to "walls of corn."

The "Moore system" of corn production was last week printed in the *Mall and Breeze* magazine, and here it is, simple and successful: "Eighteen years' experience here on my 1,440 acre farm in extreme western Kansas — 11 miles east of the Colorado line — has taught me

a system in raising corn that makes it possible to raise a good corn yield every year with certainty after the first few years that the system is followed.

"The secret is to never rotate with wheat or small grain or other than a summer-cultivated crop. It is 'corn after corn' or 'corn after cane,' broom corn, Kafir corn or any cultivated crop the same as corn in rows.

"After this, within a few years, you have perpetual moisture, and in 10 to 15 years there will be as many feet or more of wet subsoil as there have been years of corn or cultivated cropping.

"Here we use a medium-sized white corn grown here for a long time that has adjusted its breeding in conformity with our climatic and soil conditions and which can be planted with certainty 'corn after corn' in the following manner: List in fairly deep, just as soon as a three-board planter can be used and not clog. Use a weed cutter at least once, cutting to the center of a ridge which is equal to the ground all plowed and makes plenty of fine dirt for mulch.

"Harrow as soon after each rain as possible and once a week in dry weather until it must be cultivated to kill weeds and fully level the ground. One or two cultivations will

suffice. "I have never had to use a hoe and have never had a weed go to seed in my cornfield with the above ground tilling. The corn tassels in a hurry and silks out so fast at the same time that the corn worms get left.

"A hot wind may wilt the corn through the day, but the next morning it has never failed to stand as erect as a militia man and will produce for 10 to 60 bushels per acre."

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.

Now a good time to plant potatoes

Mid to late March is a good time for planting potatoes in Kansas. You need to use "seed" potatoes rather than table-stock potatoes.

Seed potatoes have been inspected to be free of seed-borne diseases, are loaded with starch for rapid germination and will readily sprout when planted.

Cut seed potatoes into pieces so that you get about four seed pieces from an average-sized potato.

It is a good idea to cut the seed two to three days before planting and store the cut seed in a warm location. This encourages a protective coating to form over the cut surfaces to protect seeds from rotting in the ground.



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Plant a seed piece about one to two inches deep, eight to 12 inches apart, in rows. New, modern varieties of potatoes have shallow eyes, making them easier to peel and with less waste. Also, modern varieties will store well without sprouting for longer periods of time.

Red or white skinned potatoes can be used for boiling, mashing,

potato salad, etc. Russet-skinned potatoes have a different starch texture, so that they have a mealy, crumbly texture when baked.

Yellow-colored flesh potatoes, such as Yukon Gold, have a bright yellow color that holds through the cooking process. Some novelty potatoes are now available with a pinkish or purple-colored flesh; however, this flesh color is not stable when cooked — it reverts to white.

Fraudulent insurance plans cost billions

Fraudulent insurance plans are becoming more prevalent in every line of insurance, and cost consumers billions in unpaid claims.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau estimates that insurance fraud costs Americans about \$30 billion each year, which translates into \$200-\$300 in higher insurance premiums for the average household.

Not only is consumer fraud on the rise, but an increasing number of cases being investigated involve agent fraud.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners, of which I serve as secretary-treasurer, has launched an online insurance fraud reporting system.

No personal information is required. The system allows consumers to provide detailed information anonymously and is available through the Kansas Insurance Department web site at www.ksin-



sandy praeger

• insurance comm.

www.naic.org, or through the national association at www.naic.org.

Complaints are routed out to the appropriate state, for investigation by that state's insurance department.

To file an insurance fraud report, consumers list the state where the suspected fraud occurred, and the name of the business or individual, with a complete mailing address.

Optional fields include the suspect's phone number and date of birth, as well as date of suspected fraud and amount of loss. The report includes a text box allowing the consumer to provide details of the suspected fraud.

In May, the Kansas Insurance Department created an Anti-Fraud Division whose primary task it is to investigate and prosecute fraudulent insurance acts.

The division is a law enforcement arm within the state department, directed by a former district attorney and staffed with lawyers and former law enforcement professionals who apply their experience, training and investigative skills to questionable insurance acts.

Two of the attorneys in the division have been granted the status of "Special Assistant to the Attorney General" which gives the division the opportunity to expedite investigations and appear in court.

Since May, the division has investigated 180 reports of fraud. Seven cases were prosecuted, with seven convictions. Six of those

were prosecuted by the Anti-Fraud Division and one was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office. This year, the division has opened 24 cases and referred six to other agencies or federal law enforcement for investigation.

If you are considering purchasing a policy from a new insurance company, one thing you can personally do to help put a stop to insurance fraud is to call the Kansas Insurance Department to confirm that the company you are considering is licensed to do business in the state of Kansas.

If you suspect insurance fraud is being committed by an individual, an agent, or a company, I encourage you to access the fraud reporting system online immediately through either of the web addresses above, or call the Kansas Insurance Department Consumer Assistance Hotline at (800) 432-2484.

Tech college honor roll lists over 20 area students

More than 20 area students were on the fall 2004 honor roll at the Northwest Kansas Technical College:

From **Goodland:** Douglas Vanner and Robert Fowler, both communications technology students; Brian Draper, Christopher Hurd and Levi Wassemiller, automotive; Kazim Cornett and Natalie Cornett, business; Deedi Hoss and Donna Pickman, cosmetology; Catherine Lovins, computer graphics; Christopher Hatfield, heating, ventilation, air

conditioning and refrigeration; Kristal Kindler, Natrisha Mathews, Rita Rall and Tiffany Urban, medical assistant; and Christopher Buchanan, Allan Briney and Justin Frodin, electronics and computer.

From **Kanorado:** Albert Foster, automotive.

From **Brewster:** Jamie Flanders and Sherrelle Miller, medical assistant.

Students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 during the semester to qualify.

Toddlers don't understand why patience matters

Dear Plain Sense: My almost four-year-old child just cannot seem to wait for anything, especially when we are in a checkout line and she wants to get to the next store.

At home, she gets so impatient when she knows we are planning to go somewhere or even when it is not quite time for a meal.

It is very difficult for active preschoolers to have to wait for something they want. They are too young to understand why patience matters to adults, and they have not yet developed the coping skills to be able to wait patiently.

Personalities differ also; some children are just naturally more patient than others. And there is certainly a difference between what



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can be expected of a 3-year-old as compared to a 5-year-old.

Still, it is important that young children learn patience, as it is an important component of being successful in school and throughout life.

Parents can help teach patience to preschoolers in several ways, including the following:

- Model patience. A child learns from the adults in his life, so be aware of the words and body lan-

guage you use when you need to wait for something.

- Use supportive comments to your children. Acknowledge the situation, and give praise for their efforts. Ask them about what they would like to do while waiting or give suggestions.

- If the wait is of a reasonably short duration, set a timer for a few minutes to help them visualize the wait.

- Be reasonable. A 3-year-old can rarely wait for an hour to eat in a restaurant. Allow young children to snack on crackers or have a book along to read.

It is important for young children to develop patience by the time they enter school. The child who has difficulty waiting in line or waiting his turn to speak can end up not only requiring discipline from teachers but may also be criticized or made fun of by his fellow students.

Contributed by Karen D. Beery, Consultation and Education Department. The views expressed here are those of the individual writer and should not be considered a replacement for seeking professional help.

Mail questions to High Plains Mental Health Center, Plain Sense, Consultation and Education Department, 208 E. Seventh, Hays, Kan. 67601.

Internet site: www.highplains-mentalhealth.com.

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