



# ‘Flappers’ give ’20s highlights

By Sharon Corcoran  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Two “flappers” guided Wheat Ridge Acres residents on a trip down memory lane Wednesday, and a Goodland woman talked about her family and her experiences when they ran the county poor farm when she was a child.

Evelyn Berry and Carol Baum, Sherman County Historical Society board members, dressed as flappers and took turns listing fashion trends, major events, inventions and famous people from the 1920s after lunch at the assisted living facility. They concluded with a list of slang terms from the decade.

They were followed by Maxine Rauscher talking about her family and experiences growing up.

Highlights of the ’20s include Babe Ruth’s home run record, Louis Armstrong playing jazz in New Orleans and Chicago, Annie Oakley’s shooting records, including hitting 100 clay targets in a con-

test when she was 62 years old, and the births of actors Judy Garland and Charlton Heston.

Women’s fashions included shorter skirts, silk stocking and high heels and the unusual mix of beads and glamour with a desire to have a more “mannish” figure. Women wanted to get rid of their breasts and look more like men, Baum said.

*Reader’s Digest* was introduced in 1922, Berry said, and insulin was isolated as the first successful treatment for diabetes.

In ’23, Berry said, marathon dancing started. People did the one-step, fox trot, waltz, Tango and the Charleston until everyone else had dropped.

Kleenex was introduced in ’24, Baum said; the popsicle was patented, and Wheaties went on sale. In ’27, she said, a Nebraska chemist concocted Kool-Aid, the automatic toaster was invented, as was the iron lung to help polio victims,

and Charles Lindbergh made pioneer flight across the Atlantic in the “Spirit of St. Louis.”

Also in ’27, she said, AT&T launched phone service to London, and initially, it was \$75 for a three-minute call.

Car radios were invented in ’29, Baum said, but you had to buy them separately. Marbles and jump ropes were the must-have toys; Mae West was a Broadway success; Emily Dickinson’s poems were found; and the stock market crashed, starting the Great Depression.

Slang of the ’20s included carry a torch — to have a crush; the cat’s meow — the best, most wonderful there ever was; drug store cowboy — a man who lingered on a street corner to pick up girls; giggle water — liquor; hotsie totsie — enjoyable; jalopy — a car, especially an old automobile; necking — kissing; snuggle buggy — the back seat of a car; and whoopee — that’s great.

Evelyn Berry (left) and Carol Baum dressed as flappers and took turns sharing highlights and inventions of the 1920s with residents at Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Community on Wednesday.  
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

# It would be an eye-opener to trade lives with someone for a week

I think it could be of great use to mankind if everyone could truly trade places with someone else for a week.

When you trade, you’d have the other person’s life completely — their past, their pain, their success, everything.

People often have such a rose-colored view of everyone else’s lives. They think the next guy has it easy, while they themselves have the market on problems. The grass is always greener.

That’s one reason I have to laugh when people try to tell me I have a great job, it’s so nice that I can just sit in an air conditioned office or some other version of how my job is so easy.



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- just for fun

An air conditioned office? I’ll be sure to remind myself of that the next time I get fried because I stood out in the sun two hours taking pictures and interviewing people.

I’ll think about it when I’m on deadline, when I’m running from one event to another snapping pictures and scribbling notes at the same time and when I get home at o’late-thirty after a hospital board meeting.

I’ll think of it when I have two months of work to do in two days, when someone calls to scream at me over the phone because they didn’t like how they were quoted

or when someone is deservedly angry because I published a stupid mistake.

I’m going to think about how cushy my job and how comfortable the office when it’s 100 degrees outside and the thermostat is set at 86 because the boss doesn’t want a big city bill, and when I’m sitting at my computer cramming food into my mouth as I work because I don’t have time to take a lunch break.

I’m going to remind myself of how easy my life is when I’m missing a relative’s wedding and running late to a friend’s funeral to cover an event on Saturday morning because none of our other reporters could do it.

No, life as a reporter is not as glamorous as some seem to think. There are days I would trade in a heartbeat for a job where I just clock in for set hours, do my work and go home.

It would be nice not to have to take my work with me everywhere I go. It’s hard to go anywhere without finding something that would make a great story or pictures, and I never know when I’ll run into someone who has the “greatest” story idea.

Sometimes even friends have story ideas. The suggestions are often helpful, and it’s a good idea in my line of work to be informed about what’s going on, but there are days I would really like for it to be someone else’s problem.

There are days I would like to tell people to call me when I’m in the office.

But, yes, my job has rewards. I learn about things I would never even hear of in another job. I meet a lot of great people, and I get the opportunity from time to time to step outside my box and try other people’s hobbies.

I’m not stuck behind a desk in a boring routine of filing and typing 40 hours a week, and I don’t have

to run like a maniac doing three jobs at a time for 12-hour shifts in a restaurant.

I don’t spend hours out in the field on a tractor worrying that we won’t get enough rain for my crops. I don’t have to get called out of bed in the middle of the night to go to the emergency room to help a patient, only to have him die and then worry that if I had done something different, maybe I could have saved him.

And, no, I don’t go to work every day and dodge bullets. It could be worse.

Still, if you find someone whose life is easy and who has no problems, let me know. I would like to trade lives with that person — if I can just figure out how to make that work.

# How can retirees collect unpaid rent from tenant without attorney expenses?

*Dear Attorney General Kline, My wife and I are both retired and rely on a rental property for a portion of our income. Our tenant has not paid rent this month, and I’m not sure exactly what to do about it. We considered getting an attorney but don’t know if we can afford one. Is there a service available where we can get some advice?*

Dear Kansas Consumer:

You ask two fine questions. The first concern is about landlord-tenant issues. Even though my Consumer Protection Division has no jurisdiction in that area, we still produce and distribute a helpful brochure on the subject. You can call toll-free at 800-432-2310 or log onto our web site at [www.ksag.org](http://www.ksag.org) to get a copy of the landlord-tenant brochure.

Your second concern is affordable legal advice. All Kansans can receive a free briefing on consumer laws by calling my 24-hour Consumer Information Line at 785-296-2424 and listening to the pre-recorded messages in category six. Message eight addresses landlord-tenant law issues.

Both our brochure and our re-



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- attorney general

cording provide advice as to what you can do under the circumstances you present.

Kansas elders have an additional path to affordable legal advice. The Kansas Elder Law Hotline is a toll-free legal advice and referral service for Kansas seniors.

The requirements to be eligible to use the hotline are very simple: a client must live in Kansas and be age 60 or over. You may call the Elder Law Hotline toll-free at 888-353-5337 from 9:00 a. m. to 4:30 p. m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays. When you call, you will be asked to provide some general information about yourself, after which your call will be transferred to an attorney.

The call to the Elder Law Hotline is toll-free. The “888” prefix works just like an “800” number. You will not be charged for the call or for the

attorneys’ time.

The attorneys answering your call are private attorneys who have volunteered or are employees of Kansas Legal Services Inc. The attorneys are

specially trained to work with the problems encountered by senior citizens and are available to answer questions in civil cases only.

For example, hotline attorneys handle questions like these:

- Do I need a will and will it have to go through probate?
- I was in a car accident and was injured — what should I do?
- Should I have a living will and a power of attorney?
- What if my spouse needs to go into a nursing home?
- What is division of assets?
- Should I put my children on the deed to my house?
- What does Medicare cover?

You should also keep in mind that hotline attorneys will not be experts in every kind of law and cannot solve most legal problems with a simple phone call. If the hotline attorney cannot help you, or you need

additional information you will be referred to your area legal service provider, a reduced fee attorney, or a private attorney through the elder law panel of the Kansas Bar Association’s lawyer referral service.

*Attorney General Phill Kline offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based*

*on actual complaints or questions. To file a complaint, please write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call 800-432-2310.*



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