

Brewster played Bird City in holiday baseball game

By Evelyn Ward

Sherman County Historical Society
July 12, 1905: Muldrow News — Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Butler’s infant died Monday night and was buried in Muldrow cemetery. — There was a large crowd from this vicinity, also from Bird City and Brewster, in attendance at the celebration at J.B. Hartley’s grove on Beaver creek.

A good program of vocal and instrumental music, recitations and a flag drill was rendered, and the declaration of independence was read.

The feature of the afternoon was a ball game played by Brewster and Bird City nines. It was an interesting game all through. Bird City was completely shut out from scoring, and Brewster was only able to run in four scores through errors of their opponents. — Visitors to the county seat this week were: R.A. Smith, J.W. Johnson, B.E. Lister, C.F. Butler and C.E. Payson.

July 13, 1905: Dewey — Berry Damage Suit — The damage suits brought against Chauncey Dewey and others by members of the Berry family, for the killing of Daniel P., Burchard B., and Alpheus W. Berry, and the wounding of Roy Berry, were continued by arrangements until July 26, when court will convene again for the purpose of disposing of questions arising in these

today in history

cases. The cases may be settled by agreement.

July 14, 1905: \$12,531.26 For District No. 1 — That Amount Collected in Tax School District No. 1, in which Goodland is located, has been the object of considerable pecuniary care for the last four years, or, during the incumbency of W.S. Coleman as treasurer of the board of education.

The records back of that time were not examined, and hence only the last four years, approximately, are given. There was paid in at the office of the county treasurer as school tax for district No. 1 on real and personal property, the sum of \$12,531.26, making an average yearly collection from this source of \$3,132.81. The teaching and janitor expense amounts to \$267.50 a month.

Upon this basis of a 10 months’ school, the annual expenditure would be \$2,765. But the incidental expenses in the operation of a school the size of the one in Goodland will aggregate several hundred dollars, so that the levies and estimated collection in the years above indicated, have been rather nicely figured.

Outside of its bonded indebtedness occasioned by the erection of our large and fine-looking school building, district No. 1 is in good condition financially. All warrants are payable on demand, and there is a small surplus left over to meet contingencies.

The Sherman County High School, as far as the finances in this article are concerned, is a distinct institution, the money to support it coming almost entirely from the county through the establishment and maintaining of a high school fund.

July 15, 1905: Anderson Murder Trial — At the last term of the district court, which convened July 5, the jury in the case against John Anderson, colored, charged with murder in the first degree.

This, the only criminal case on the docket, was taken up early in the afternoon of the second day of court. County Attorney, G.L. Calvert, assisted by Judge Hamilton of Norton, conducted the prosecution.

John Hartzler and G.W. Jones, a Negro lawyer of Hill City, looked after the interests of the accused man. Anderson had no money to

pay attorneys’ fees, and the court appointed these two attorneys to defend him, at his request and their request.

He had employed them, expecting to get money to pay them, but had been disappointed, and the attorneys were unwilling to desert him.

There was not much trouble in getting a jury. The affair had seemingly caused but little excitement. All those examined had read the newspaper account of the killing, but only a few had formed any opinion, whatsoever.

Before the middle of the afternoon, the following men were sworn to try the cause: George Hayden, J.W. Kanouse, B.E. Lister, A.R. Wells, Fred Schindler, J.J. Finley, Frank Treblick, John Amos, J.W. Smith, William Daise, J.W. Johnson and W.B. Hogeboom.

The taking of testimony occupied but a few hours. The prosecution showed that Anderson was one of a number of Negroes who had been at work on the coal chutes in the Rock Island yards; that the men all lived together in a freight car on a sidetrack north of the round house.

On April 29, some difficulty arose between Anderson and N.P. Hill, another of the Negro coal heavers living in the car. Hill, who worked of nights, had been sleep-

ing that forenoon. About noon Anderson was sitting on the floor of the car, singing. Hill woke, and got out of his bunk, evidently in bad humor. He walked over toward Anderson and said to him: “I’ve killed a G—D—S—of a B— for less than that.”

Other remarks he made at the time indicated that he was angry because he had been awakened before the regular time and thought that it was Anderson’s singing that disturbed him.

The testimony tended to show that Anderson was singing rather softly to himself. Hill walked past Anderson once, and walked back toward him. Three of the Negroes who were in the car at the time, gave their testimony at the last.

Not one of the three saw what happened immediately after Anderson and Hill met the last time. They knew that Hill was, a moment later, stretched out on the floor of the car and that Anderson was standing over him swinging a bloody ax.

One of them shouted to Anderson: “My God, Happy, don’t hit that man! You’ve killed him, now!”

An instant later, Anderson was out of the car, taking the ax with him. The witnesses followed him, and one of them persuaded him not to try to escape but to go up town and give himself up to the sheriff.

Anderson said: “If I thought that man was not dead, I’d go back and finish the job.”

Drs. Smith and Gulick described the wounds. One was near the medium line of the skull and penetrated through the scalp and skull and about two inches into the brain. The other was just above the left ear, and extended in a slanted direction toward the throat. Either wound, the doctors said, would inevitably produce death.

The doctors found no weapons other than a pocket knife, which was closed and in Mr. Hill’s pocket. It was shown, while no one swore to it directly, that Anderson had abundant opportunity to escape before the killing if he had any apprehensions as to his safety as Anderson stood between the open door and Mr. Hill.

Mr. Hamilton for the prosecution summed up the evidence and claimed that the state had proved all that was necessary for a conviction. He said that justice would not be done if the prisoner was acquitted altogether.

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.

Some seem to think we are all just really big lab rats, minus tails

I can’t help distrusting the scientists who are doing all those studies. Not any individual scientist, mind you; I have nothing against science and don’t personally know a particular scientist who’s not trustworthy.

It’s the dubious information in the studies that bothers me. And so often people pass on the information preceded by the phrase, “They say....”

Who says? Is there a scientist with credentials who is willing to have his name on the study? I’m not going to believe just anything that’s spread around by just anybody with no credentials other than “they,” “scientists” or “researchers” say. If nobody of repute is willing to put his name on it, I don’t believe it.

For example, Kathryn, my other



sharon
corcoran

- just for fun

“they,” “scientists,” say lab rats and humans have 90 percent of the same DNA. Huh?! Considering that we look and act more than 10 percent different, I think reason says there’s something wrong with that number.

So I did what any reasonable person faced with that information would: I asked for a name, a source, a bibliography, anything of repute to back that up.

Kathryn found an article for me from the Dec. 5, 2002, issue of the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The article, titled “Of Mice and Men,” says mice and human beings both carry about 30,000 genes. On a letter-by-letter basis, the article

says, the genes are 85 percent the same.

The first sentence in the next paragraph tells me what’s really wrong with the picture: “Comparing the two genomes provides an evolutionary history of the two species, traced out in the diverging sequences of DNA.”

Ah, evolutionists.

The next paragraph begins: “Human beings, in turn, carry the genes for growing a tail but apparently lack the ancient instructions — lost in 75 million years of evolution — for completing the process.”

This presents an amusing mental picture. Can you imagine people walking down the street dragging gigantic rat tails behind them?

People used to advise anyone afraid of public speaking to picture

their audience in their underwear. Maybe instead they could imagine their audience as giant lab rats with humongous tails hanging out of their suits and skirts.

If it doesn’t send them running from the room in fright, it would surely make them laugh so hard they would never be able to say a thing. That’s probably not the best way to help someone give a speech.

I had a science teacher in college who talked about all living creatures evolving from amoebae as if he was there and saw it happen. I told a friend about this, and she said, “Well, I’ll be an amoebae’s uncle!”

Indeed.

How often do stunts in commercials have the warning, “Do not try this at home”? Music CDs often have warning labels saying they contain

lyrics that are not appropriate for children, and movies have ratings to warn of improper contents.

Maybe what we really need are warning “labels” on the screens at all science-fiction movies and television shows to warn scientists that they are FICTION, not reality.

I’m waiting for the study that says Chewbacca’s family has been discovered on Saturn or that alien abductions are real, not just a fabrication of *The National Enquirer*.

Maybe after moviegoers have seen “The War of the Worlds,” starring Tom Cruise, a study will come out saying that Martians really did invade earth, and we are the ones who stayed behind.

After all, if we are 90 percent the same genetically as lab rats, who’s to say we aren’t from Mars?

Your financial information may not be as private as you think

Dear Attorney General Kline: For some time now, I've been receiving items in the mail stating "Important Information Pertaining to Your Privacy Rights Enclosed" or "Important Information about your Account Enclosed." I was under the impression my financial information was private. Is that not the case?

Dear Kansas Consumer: Some of your information can be shared, but there are specific limits and you can take steps to help protect the privacy of your personal financial information. It’s important that you take the time to read all privacy notices you receive from financial institutions and companies with whom you have a business relationship. These notices explain how the company handles and shares your information. Financial companies share infor-



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- attorney general

some sharing of that information with companies that are part of the same corporate group as your financial company (affiliates), or not part of the same corporate

group as your financial company (non-affiliates).

But you cannot opt out and completely stop the flow of all your personal financial information. The law permits your financial companies to share certain information about you without giving you the right to opt out. Among other things, your financial company can provide to non-affiliates:

- Information about you to firms that help promote and market the company’s own products or products offered under an agreement between two financial companies.

- Records of your transactions — such as loan payments, credit or debit card purchases and checking and savings account statements — to firms that provide data processing and mailing services for your company.

- Information about you in response to a court order.

- Your payment history on loans and credit cards to credit bureaus.

Again, when you receive privacy notices, make sure you read them and understand them, because not all privacy notices are the same.

If you have questions, first con-

tact your financial company directly. If you still have questions about your privacy rights in dealing with a financial company, you can contact the federal or state agency that oversees that type of company.

If you want to opt out, follow the instructions in the notice. If you did not opt out the first time you received a privacy notice from a financial company, it’s not too late. You can always change your mind and opt out of certain information sharing. And, if necessary, don’t hesitate to shop around for a financial institution with the privacy

policy you want.

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. For further information or to file a complaint, please write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310.

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Kansas' 'Fleagle Gang'

Fingerprint ends nationwide '20s manhunt

True crime from the roaring 20s, "The Fleagle Gang, Betrayed by a fingerprint," begins with a brazen daylight bank robbery of the First National Bank in Lamar, Colo. on May 23, 1928. Four men are dead, and the robbers escaped. Author Tom (N.T.) Betz, editor of *The Goodland Star-News*, has spent a lifetime in journalism and on the Great Plains.

Betz will be at the Wichita County Library in Leoti, Kan. at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 24, to talk about researching the book and the local ties to the story. Copies of the book will be available for purchase, and for the author to sign. Betz will be at the Hastings Book Store in Garden City from 4-7 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, to sign books.

"The Fleagle Gang" details the robbery/murder case which hinges on a single fingerprint found on a murdered Dighton, Kan., doctor's car. The fledgling FBI and new boss J. Edgar Hoover play a crucial role in turning the single fingerprint into solid evidence used to find, arrest and convict members of the Fleagle Gang. The FBI credits the Fleagle case as being the first time a single fingerprint was used to identify and convict criminals. The book includes over 100 photos and maps taken from court files and places where the gang robbed banks. The Fleagle family lived near Friend, Kan. in Finney County.

A U.S. Navy journalist and a graduate of the University of Colorado, Betz started his career delivering papers for his family's newspaper (1920-1989) *The Lamar Daily News* in Lamar, Colo., winning the first of numerous journalism awards as a teenager.

The Fleagle Gang robbed banks and trains in Larned, Kinsley, Marysville, Ottawa and McPherson Kan., Lamar, Colo., Eugene, Ore., Pittsburg, Calif. and countless others of over \$1 million in the 10 years they operated.

Three gang members — Ralph Fleagle, George Abshire and Howard Royston — were "jerked up" at the Colorado Penitentiary a little over two years after committing the Colorado bank robbery. The fourth, Jake Fleagle, was shot on a train in Branson, Mo. in Oct. 1930.

"The Fleagle Gang" is available at the Big Timbers Museum in Lamar, Colo., the Lane County Museum in Dighton, Kan., the Fick Fossil and History Museum in Oakley, Kan., the Finney County Museum in Garden City, Kan., and the High Plains Museum in Goodland, Kan. It is available on-line from the publisher *Authorhouse.com*, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Hastiangs and other major book stores.

Check out "The Fleagle Gang" web site at: nwkansas.com/home/fleaglegang.