



Elmer and Freda Duell 65 years ago



The couple today

Couple celebrates 65th anniversary

At noon on July 28, 1940, Freda (Purvis) and Elmer Duell were married by a justice of the peace at the Sherman County Courthouse. Thursday they will celebrate their 65th anniversary. The couple lives at 1518 Caldwell, and Elmer said they might go out for dinner to celebrate.

Elmer said he met his wife in 1938 when Freda's brother got her a room and board at his mother's home. He said there were five boys

and he was the oldest. Freda was working her way through high school, but she and Elmer got married before she finished. She went back to school in the late 60s, and got her diploma in 1970. She worked at Boothroy Memorial Hospital then located on Sixth Street between Center and Main as a nurses aid for 11 years. Elmer worked for 12 years at White Machine and Motor before going out on his own selling ma-

chinery and grain bins in Sharon Springs. Moving back to Goodland, he was selling grain bins and metal buildings. He was licensed in the city for electrical, plumbing and residential construction. They have three children, Robert Darel (Amy Blaclock) and Myron James (Mitra Soltania), both of San Jose, Calif., and Bruce Norman of Alma.

The concert will be held on the deck and in the back yard at the home of Tyson and Juli Shelley on County Road 16 just east of Sugar Hill Golf Course.

Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children 12 and under. The money will go directly to the band.

Tropical Shores to perform in Goodland

In the spirit of summer, the Goodland Arts Council is planning a "tropical" outdoor concert at 8 p.m. Friday.

The steel drum group Tropical Shores will perform "The Caribbean Adventure," a concert of island songs highlighted by explanations of the history and origins

of steel drum music, with a good measure of humorous road stories from the Brad Shores family.

Shores, a 1979 Goodland High School graduate, is the high school band instructor in Haven. He and his family perform on authentic steel drums from Trinidad.

'Murderabilia' collectors crazy

I've long been convinced you have to be a special kind of crazy to go around killing people for sheer entertainment, but I'm starting to wonder if serial killers are really the craziest among us.

Even crazier than the killers may be those who write to them in prison and those who buy anything and everything connected to a killer.

An article in the Monday, July 18, *Salina Journal* says a letter allegedly written by BTK killer Dennis Rader sold for \$100 in an Internet auction. This isn't the first time something connected to Rader sold on-line; papers he signed as part of his job with Park City and other items went up for sale shortly after his arrest.

I thought that was bizarre but probably just part of the novelty of thinking BTK had finally been caught. But his confession, confirming that he is indeed a crazed killer, hasn't dampened the zeal of people who collect "murderabilia."

And Rader isn't the only killer generating such crazy purchases. The same article said collectors could go to one web site to bid on foot scrapings from serial killer Angel Ramirez, on death row in Texas, or a vial of dirt from the crawl space where executed serial killer John Wayne Gacy buried his victims.

Eewwww! Why would anyone want anybody's foot scrapings? And to pay for it? Crazy.

Besides, how would you ever prove they are really his? And how would you prove the dirt in that vial came from where they say it did? It seems to me these sales just open the way for people to fake things and



sharon corcoran

- just for fun

make a fortune off of fraud that can't be easily regulated.

Even if the items are authentic, this is an incredibly stupid use of money. I had the \$100 spent on that letter hanging around in my pocket begging me to spend it, I could buy a designer blouse, go from store to store buying whatever strikes my fancy, have a pizza party for 30 of my closest friends or donate to a charity.

If I had wads of \$100s burning holes in my pockets, I could drive down Colfax Avenue in Denver tossing them out the window, making the day for many homeless people holding up signs: "Will work for food."

Even the sheer pleasure of telling myself money is so valueless that I can afford to light a \$100 bill on fire would be more fun than spending it on a letter supposedly written by a killer.

And the women who write to killers in prison top the crazy list. I realize I'm kind of picky, but seriously, is any single gal really so desperate that a convicted murderer seems attractive?

If you're a woman writing letters to Rader while he is in prison (unless you're an author gleaning information for a book), what in this scenario is attractive? From what I saw on television, it's not his looks.

And then there's the person. He's a man who admitted to brutally torturing and murdering eight people

to fulfill perverted sexual fantasies. That sounds to me like the last person anyone would want to date.

When listing the top 10 things that would disqualify a single guy from her dating possibilities, any reasonable woman would surely include being a murderer, being in prison and having deviant sexual fantasies in the top five. For one man to be all three and still be desirable to anyone is just crazy.

This could send all the stable, reasonable guys who work for a living, treat women well and are willing to have some sort of sane conversation on a date into hiding because they're convinced women aren't interested in them.

They could become convinced women are only attracted to lunatic "bad boys" and don't want to meet anyone who won't ruin their lives.

public notice

Legal Publication

Notice of sale of abandoned Motor Vehicle in the possession of Sherman County Sheriff's Department. The herein described vehicle will be sold at public auction on August 23, 2005 at 9 a.m., to the highest bidder for cash, if the owner does not claim the same prior to time of sale and pay for removal, storage and publication costs incurred. Description of vehicle: Make AMC Model Eagle, Serial or identification number 2CCCK3852 FB709307 Color brownish tan, Year 1985. Vehicle is in storage at Sherman Count Sheriff's Lot, 813 1/2 Broadway, Goodland, Kan.

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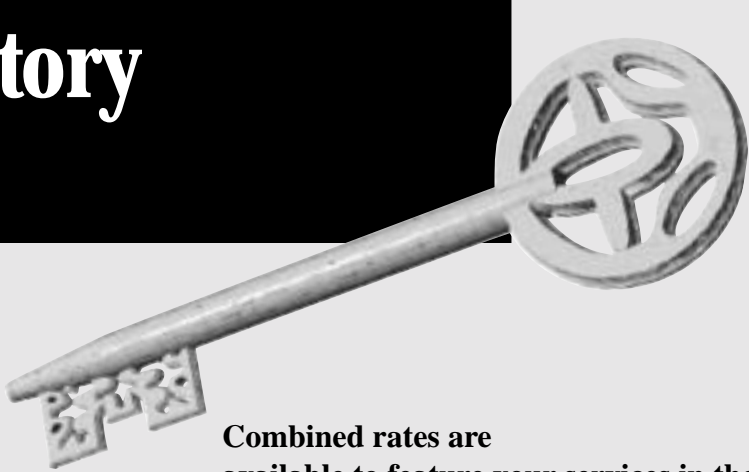
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