

Company bought two-seater for real estate business

By Evelyn Ward
Sherman County Historical Society
September 10, 1905: Buy An Automobile — Wilson Bros. have bought a two-seated automobile of the Rambler Automobile company of Kenosha, Wis. The machine was ordered through the Omaha, Neb., agency, and is expected here in a few days. The price was \$1,350.

They will use the machine not only for pleasure but also for profit. It will come in very handy in the place of livery hire to show prospective customers the country and to look up lands in this and other counties. Real estate business must be good to afford the luxury of an automobile.

September 11, 1905: To The Teachers of Sherman County: We are entering upon another school year, and it depends largely upon yourself whether or not it be a pleasant and profitable one. Endeavor to make your school the best one in the county. We want to make the schools of Sherman County the best in the state, if they are not already.

today in history

The course of study is based upon the course adopted by the state, and the work is divided into nine years of seven months each. It is expected that by using this course of study, much time may be saved to both teacher and pupil, and that more and better work will be accomplished.

Examination questions based upon the work as outlined in the course will be sent to you at the close of each school month. Do not be discouraged if you cannot follow detail. You will be furnished with report cards that you may report to the parent or guardian at the close of each month.

I will give each pupil, who is neither absent or tardy during the term, a nice diploma of honor. Tell your pupils about this on the first day of school. Encourage your seventh and eighth grade to take the examination next spring for a common

school diploma. All grades of 80 percent or better may be carried for one year.

We had 24 common school graduates this year, and we want at least 30 next year. We will have commencement exercises some time during institute next summer. We expect to be fortunate enough to get the state superintendent to address our class of 1906.

Encourage all of your pupils who pass the eighth grade to attend the county high school. Graduates from this school may secure a second grade teacher's certificate without examination.

We want a larger county attendance, and we will expect you to do all you can to increase attendance. It will be a pleasure to me to lend you every aid in my power in your work as a teacher.

Sincerely yours, J.P. Phillips, County Superintendent

September 12, 1905: The Burning Question — A meeting of the township trustees of the southern part of the county is called for 2 o'clock September 16 in the court house, although trustees from all parts of this county are welcome to attend.

They are urging the immediate plowing of fireguards and are starting a movement among the farmers to take such steps as will ward off the possible ravages of the prairie fire. There is plenty of law for the carrying out of effective safeguards against prairie fires, which have been cited in this paper heretofore.

The recent big prairie fire swept a large area of country in the east and north part of this county, burning 1,500 bushels of grain on one farm and has awakened the farmers to the performance of the duty of self preservation.

The more prosperity they enjoy, the greater is the necessity of protections against fire. The meeting will doubtless be well attended and the proper action taken.

September 13, 1905: Adjourned Court Session to Attend to Matters in Dewey-Berry Cases — The district court for Sherman County met in the courtroom in Goodland in an adjourned session to consider disputed points between the attorneys for the Berrys and Deweys, relative to the judgments for damages rendered July 27.

Judge Smith called the court to order, and the hearing in the cases began. It will be remembered that last July judgment was awarded by the court in favor of the Berry widows and Roy Berry for the sum of \$10,500, as against the Deweys.

This was the result of an agreement between the attorneys outside of court, wherein the Dewey attorneys agreed with Attorney L.W. Colby, representing the Berrys, that they would allow the granting of the judgments above mentioned, providing the criminal cases against the Deweys were decided to be finally dismissed in the Norton County court.

Whether these dismissals were

final was the disputed point. It seems that defendants had made a motion before the court that the cases in question be dismissed with prejudice, which was overruled by Judge Geiger, and exceptions taken by defendant's attorneys.

At a later date, the county attorney of Norton County introduced a motion for final dismissal, which was granted. But the former overruling of the judge, in the hands of defendant's attorneys, had been taken to the supreme court pending decision from that tribunal.

After a review of the case, Judge Smith decided that the cases against the Deweys were not finally dismissed, and so the judgments rendered by him last July were not effective. The damage cases were continued, therefore, until the November term of court.

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.

Check comments about seller before buying from online auctions

Dear Attorney General Kline: Over the last few months, I have done a lot of shopping online. I do my best to visit secure web sites and carefully protect my credit card account numbers. I'm considering the possibility of shopping at online auction sites for more bargains, maybe even a car, but I am concerned. What should I be aware of if I decide to shop at these sites?

Dear Kansas Consumer: More and more consumers are doing at least a portion of their shopping online and it does sound like you are doing a good job when it comes to protecting your personal financial information.

But when it comes to shopping at online auction sites such as eBay, additional precautions are



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• attorney general

necessary.

If you decide to buy from online auction sites, some of the best advice is to know the seller. Many online malls and auction sites feature a forum where buyers comment about their experiences with sellers. It's a good idea to be cautious when dealing with sellers with little or no posted feedback.

Also, take any negative comments very seriously, and be wary of sellers that have only dated re-

views because account takeovers do occur. You should also compare specific listings whenever possible to see if the item you're interested in is actually going for a

fair price. Avoid being an impulse buyer. Make sure you thoroughly research the item offered and get to know the seller before agreeing to any purchase.

In addition, there are certain higher-demand items that involve higher purchasing risks. You'll be money ahead to do additional research when it comes to computers, electronics, jewelry and items that are sold out in retail stores.

It's a "red flag" if a seller claims to suddenly have a large quantity of an item that is nearly impossible to find. You should question the claim by speaking with the seller's supplier to verify that the supplier is operating a legitimate business.

Buying a vehicle at an online auction is another matter. If you decide to take that step, make sure you contact the website and ask if any complaints have been filed against the seller.

Since there's no way for you to personally test drive the vehicle, do the next best thing: contact a reputable mechanic where the vehicle is being sold to check it out for you before you finalize any deal. This same precaution should be used to check out other "high

dollar" items you would check out for yourself under normal circumstances.

When you agree to make a purchase from an online auction site, use secure payment methods such as your credit card or PayPal, and never wire money or send certified funds out of the country, it's an open invitation to fraud.

For all online auction purchases, get everything in writing. Print out and save the auction listing for your items, your successful bid confirmation, the report on the seller, and all other e-mails and correspondence involving the transaction. This information may be required in the event you need to file a complaint concerning your purchases or to help settle any disputes.

Online auction shopping can be a good experience, but keep in mind that buying something from another individual in this manner is far riskier than buying from a local individual or company.

Attorney General Phillip 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 Phillip Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310.

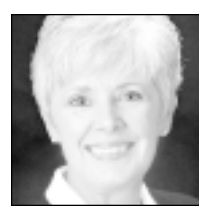
Homeowners be wary when hiring contractor to repair storm damage

Even though we are well into the summer, the possibility of a sudden, severe storm is never behind us. That is evidenced by the storms bearing heavy rain and wind damage that have swept through the state several times this summer.

With that in mind, I thought it would be a good idea to share with you some reminders about what to do after the storm, particularly with regard to repairs to damage you may sustain.

A caution for you to be aware of is that sadly, when tragedy strikes, some unskilled and unlicensed individuals claiming to be contractors see that as an opportunity to prey on victims of a disaster.

Some individuals posing as contractors ask for payment up front or ask that the insurance check be



sandy praeger

• insurance comm.

signed over to them before the work is started, and then disappear never to be seen again.

Others may ask the homeowner to sign a contract allowing them to "arbitrate their claim," telling the homeowner he can take care of the work to be done to repair and replace what was damaged by the storms.

Some may actually attempt to do the work but at a quality much less than acceptable, using materials that are inappropriate and some-

times even dangerous for the task at hand.

Some homeowners are asked to sign contracts and then receive a bill for the work done double that of what the adjusters allowed.

The homeowner is left owing the difference, which at times can be significant.

It is important that you make sure the person you retain to do your repairs is bonded to do the work that is being offered. As is often true, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is, so beware.

The following is a list of things you can do, if you suffer loss or damage, that will protect you and help you know how to proceed:

- Contact your insurance com-

pany immediately to report losses.

- Take notes summarizing your conversation and write down the name of the person with whom you spoke.

- Take photographs showing damaged property.

- Do not make major repairs until after your insurer's visual inspection of your loss. If necessary, secure the damage with tarps if interior areas are exposed, but be sure to get instructions from your adjuster before calling anyone to repair or replace damaged property.

- Avoid being taken advantage of during the time of recovery by making sure the contractor you choose is bonded to do the work promised.

- For your personal health and safety, be sure to follow proper safety procedures and operating instructions before operating any gas-powered or electric-powered saws

or tools.

Important information about rising water and flooding:

- Everyone is at risk for a flood, not just those living in a high-risk area.

- Just an inch of water can cause costly damage to your property. In fact, 20 to 25 percent of flood insurance claims come from low- to moderate-risk areas.

- Most personal and commercial policies covering property do not include flood protection.

- Rising water can cause costly damage to your property, and if you are prone to experiencing flooding or rising water in your home, you may not be protected.

Flood policies are only available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program, as long as your community participates in the program.

Your insurance agent can answer

questions about the flood insurance program or you can call 1-888-225-5356 or visit the program's website at www.fema.gov/nfip.

You can also log on to www.FloodSmart.gov to determine your home's risk profile and access flood maps, as well as determine whether or not your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Keep in mind that it takes 30 days after purchase for a policy to take effect, so it's important to buy insurance before the floodwaters start to rise.

If you experience any difficulties with your insurance claims after a storm, start by contacting your agent. If problems go unresolved or if you have questions, contact the Kansas Insurance Department Consumer Assistance Hotline at 1-800-432-2484. The hotline is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

matters of record

District Traffic
 District Court reports no longer contain the person's age or hometown or how fast those with speeding tickets were going because of the court's change of computer pro-

gram. The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

June 25 — Mollie E. Fletcher \$138 for speeding.

June 26 — Jackie D. Ivey \$80 for

no child restraint.

June 27 — Christine A. Wilson \$138 for speeding.

July 10 — Errol Molleker \$1,085 for obstruction of legal process or official duty.

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and The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and Ambassadors welcome

Cole Family Farms

Owners Bryce and Jessica Cole have opened an a"Maze"ing attraction on the east edge of Goodland. They were inspired by the idea of bringing people to Goodland. Their corn maze is a replica of the Van Gogh sunflower painting on 10 acres, and is the only corn maze in Northwest Kansas. Families of all sizes are welcome. Field trips and group rates are available. For upcoming special events check their web site <cofamilyfarms.com> or call 785-899-2132. Now open through October on Saturday 3-10 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to dark (bring a flashlight). Follow Eighth Street to the east edge of Goodland.

Pictured with Bryce and Jessica are their children Henry, Grace and Eve, and other invited guests.