

St. Francis farmers decide to go nuts

By Karen Krien
The Saint Francis Herald

Most people think of the South when it comes to raising peanuts, but two St. Francis men decided they were going to try the underground beans last spring.

Richard Walters and Francis O’Leary planted six rows of peanuts on a lot west of the Church of Christ, producing a nice crop.

The rows had 1,000 plants and each plant produced 60 to 90 peanuts, they said.

“We put in an order for jumbo peanuts in the Gurney seed catalog about the first of April,” Mr. Walters said.

They kept the plants watered until about a week after they began to bloom.

“That’s when the peanuts start setting on,” Mr. Walters said. “It was important that they got enough water before the peanuts started setting on. Some of those plants at the end of the row didn’t get as much water, and they didn’t have hardly any peanuts.”

The seeds develop underground, he said.

“They love sandy soil and Kansas’ good climate,” Mr. Walters said.

Mr. O’Leary said he has grown peanuts before, adding that growing the peanuts might be the easy part.

After the peanuts have dried, Mr. O’Leary said, he boils them for 6 to 8 hours in salted water.

Sometimes, he adds garlic to the pot and other times, he spices them up with hot pepper.

“You need a big pot,” Mr. O’Leary said.

When the peanuts have boiled, it is a different nut that most people think of as a “peanut.”

“Some people say their kind of slimy,” he said, “but I like them that



Richard Walters (right), one of the peanut farmers, showed Casey McCormick how peanuts grow and what they look like. Francis O’Leary (above) stacked the peanuts in a burlap sack so they would continue to grow.

Photos by Karen Krien/The Saint Francis Herald

way.”

Other people roast their peanuts in the shell and they are like the peanuts most of us know, he said. Roasted peanuts can also be ground and made into peanut butter.

Both men like gardening and this year, besides the peanuts, they also grew sweet potatoes, black-eyed

peas, okra, potatoes, green beans, cantaloupe and tomatoes.

Their crop was so successful, they plan to plant peanuts again next year, along with all the regular crops.

Drug bust charges reduced; defense challenges case

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

Charges were amended on Tuesday, Sept. 20, in the cases of four men arrested on methamphetamine charges in Goodland and Wallace County last month.

Carlos Delgado, 44, Chihuahua, Mexico, and Dighton, appeared in Sherman County District Court with a Spanish-speaking interpreter and his attorney, Scott Showalter.

Rodney L. Hill, 45, Wallace, was brought over from the Sherman County Bastille, where he was still being held, to hear the changes with his attorney Richard D. Dinkel of Sharon Springs.

Steven Sandoval, 22, Kanorado, appeared with his attorney Kevin N. Berens of St. Francis.

Ricardo Arzate, 27, Guerrero, Mexico, was not in court, but was represented by his attorney, Leslie Beims.

All four men have been charged

with two counts of sale of narcotic drugs, a level 3 felony; conspiracy to sell narcotic drugs, a level 2 felony; possession of drug paraphernalia, a class A misdemeanor; and not having a state tax stamp, a level 10 felony.

Delgado, Sandoval and Arzate are out on a \$250,000 bond including supervision by the court service officer.

Hill is still in jail and his bond is set at \$250,000.

Hill was arrested Aug. 27 as police say he tried to sell about one-fourth of a pound of methamphetamine to a Denver man at a Goodland hotel.

Delgado, Sandoval and Arzate were arrested when police searched Hill’s home in Wallace.

The changes were amended last month to reduce the conspiracy charge from a level 2 felony to a level 4 felony for all four cases.

District Judge Jack Burr granted

the amendment, saying it is early enough in the proceedings for the prosecution to make changes.

All four attorneys had no objections.

Beims and Showalter both filed bills of particulars stating that the charges brought against their clients, Arzate and Delgado, should be taken up in Wallace County where the two were arrested, not Sherman County.

Showalter argued that the state can not prove any of the crimes were committed in Sherman County, since his client was picked up in Wallace.

He said Delgado cannot be charged with sale of narcotic drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia and not having a drug tax stamp in Sherman County because he was not physically in the county.

He said the conspiracy charge could be filed in a broader sense, but the other charges should be specific

to Wallace County.

Showalter said that the evidence presented to him on the charges does not show any involvement in Sherman County.

Beims said the charges need to be fleshed out to show why they were brought in this county.

Selby said she has evidence to show a clear foundation for the charges.

Burr ordered Selby to show the defense attorneys why charges were brought in the county.

Charges are pending in Wallace County and the arrests extend into Dighton, in Lane County.

Four men were picked up there, Jesus “Jesse” Sandoval, 54, and his brother George Sandoval, 49, both of Kanorado and Dighton; and Catarino Salinas, 26, and Kenneth Gonzales, 32, both of Goodland.

Gonzales and Salinas have both been released but both Sandovals were still in the Lane County jail on

Thursday.

Hill’s wife Trischa, 45, who allegedly fled the scene of the search of Hill’s house was picked up in Salina on Friday, Sept. 9, and was taken to the Sherman County Bastille.

Charges in Wallace County against Trischa include possession of a stimulant with intent to sell, a level 3 person felony; possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to sell or distribute, a level 4 felony; possession of a hallucinogenic drug, a class A misdemeanor; and no drug tax stamp, a level 3 felony.

Rodney was facing the same charges in Wallace County, but they were dismissed and will be refilled.

Now in Wallace, Hill is facing possession of a stimulant with intent to sell, a level 3 person felony; no drug tax stamp, a level 10 person felony; sale of a designated stimulant (methamphetamine), a level 2 felony; and possession of drug para-

phernalia with intent to sell or distribute, a level 4 felony. He has one count of each for incidents on April 28, May 27 and July 5.

Doug Murphy, drug enforcement coordinator with the Quad County Drug Task Force, said police have been following a meth supply chain from Mexico involving Hill and the Sandovals.

The busts did not involve the manufacture of meth, but drug trafficking, he said.

The arrests involved the task force, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation; the Wallace, Lane, Sherman, Greeley and Logan county sheriff’s departments; the Goodland Police; and the Eastern Colorado Plains Drug Task Force.

The Quad County Drug Task Force includes the Logan, Thomas, Sherman, Wallace and Greeley county sheriffs and the Oakley, Colby and Goodland police departments.

corrections

A story “Accident on I-70 sends three to hospital,” on Page 3 of the Friday, Sept. 30, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* said everyone in the vehicle was wearing a seat belt. Trooper Bryon Wilson said one passenger, Troix Lube, 11, actually was not restrained and he was ejected from the vehicle. This was a reporting error.

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