

Austrian man, known as ‘Dad,’ died at home

By Evelyn Ward

Sherman County Historical Society
October 24, 1905: Death Comes To H.H. Auer — ‘Dad’ Auer, as he has long been called, died at his home. Herman Henry Auer was born at Prague, Austria, Aug. 13, 1836.

He immigrated to America in 1866, living in Milwaukee and Nebraska before coming to Sherman county in 1886. Mr. Auer was widely and favorably known. Like many Americans, foreign born, he loved great and free America.

October 25, 1905: The Damon’s New Orleans colored students gave an entertainment at the opera house under the auspices of the St. Paul’s Guild of the Episcopal Church.

There was an unusually large attendance, notwithstanding the fact that the evening was dark and rainy. The performance was of a high or-

today in history

der, musically considered, outclassing any colored minstrel show ever given in this city. Financially, also, the concert was a success, a fair sum being realized by the Guild after paying all expenses.

The troupe was made up of three men and three women, Prof. Damon being the manager and director. His instrumental performances on the piano, cello, banjo and zither were all fine.

Of the vocal artists, the basso was far above the average and sustained his part well. It was an enjoyable entertainment and was only marred by a cold house and by contemptible rowdyism in the rear of the house.

The rowdyism exhibited should be roundly condemned by all good

citizens. It was a disgrace to the town. Had there been a marshal present, the rowdy riff raff should have been taken into custody and fined by the police court. If this thing continues, that is the very treatment such characters are quite likely to receive.

October 26, 1905: Legs Under Wheels — The young boys of Goodland that have been frequently at the railroad at train time and who jump on the coaches for a ride on an outgoing train will not play with danger for a while, since they have been shocked with the terrible sight of six heavy car wheels running over the legs of one of their comrades, Ward Runnells.

They were at the depot when No.41 pulled in from the east. As

boys will, they waited their chance to jump on the steps for a ride in the yards when the train pulled out.

Ward Runnells got on the rear steps of the coach next to the last and was attempting to swing off at the coal chutes when his feet slipped from under him and he was thrown under the wheels, and two three-wheel trucks passed over his legs a little below the knees.

The step also struck him in the head and inflicted a severe wound. The cries of the helpless boy frightened his companions, and they ran home as fast as they could go.

The bone and flesh where the wheels ran over him was crushed to a jelly. He could not live in that condition, and the physicians who performed the amputation, Drs. Smith and Carmichael, told his parents before operation that he had only once chance in a thousand to recover. The chance was taken, and he

died of the shock. He was 12 years old.

To accommodate the school children who wanted to attend the funeral, the Goodland city school children attended in a body at the services held at the Opera House.

October 27, 1905: Man Who Cashed C.U. Congdon’s Check Couldn’t Bear to Keep the Cash — The person who either stole or found C.U. Congdon’s pay check and got the cash on it by signing Mr. Congdon’s name on the back of the check thought the money thus obtained was poor stuff after all and threw it away.

The pocketbook belonging to Mr. Congdon was found near the sidewalk on the vacant ground between Fred Coffin’s restaurant and H.H. Auer & Son’s business places by Mr. Duesenberry, an employee on the “rip” track at the railroad.

He turned it over to Sheriff Bra-

dley, and upon investigation, it was found that the pocketbook contained the exact number and denomination of bills and also the same amount of silver that Cashier Wolfe paid out upon the forged check.

Besides the \$108.85 which was obtained by forgery, a ten dollar bill which Mr. Congdon had was also there. The authorities have been unable to apprehend the criminal, but it is thought that after obtaining the money he got “scared” and threw the pocketbook and contents away. The money was returned to the proper person and the matter straightened up without loss to the injured parties.

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.

Ordinary things come to life on canvas



Oil paintings of marbles and a pastel of sewing notions are among the work by Jean Miller of Tribune on display at the Carnegie Arts Center through Friday, Nov. 4. Miller, who has been painting for 24 years, is displaying a collection of oils, pastels, charcoal, graphite, powdered graphite and pen and ink. Many of Miller’s pieces are still-lives of ordinary objects brought to life on canvas. Several have already sold.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Director to be honored for work

Sandy Kuhlman, executive director of Hospice Services Inc. in Phillipsburg, has been selected to receive the “Emily Taylor Champion for LIFE” award from the Kansas LIFE Project and will be honored at a reception Thursday.

This award is the highest honor given by the LIFE Project and is named after a former University of Kansas dean of women, Dr. Emily Taylor.

The Kansas LIFE Project (Living Initiatives For End-of-Life Care) works to help seriously ill Kansans and their families live with dignity, comfort and peace. LIFE Project and leaders from across the state will honor Kuhlman at the “Champions for LIFE” Gala celebration Thursday at the Wichita Marriott.

The festivities, which begin at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time, include a reception, dinner, awards presentation, silent and live auctions and a dance. Registration details are available on-line at www.lifeproject.org or call toll-free 888-202-LIFE.

Kuhlman has worked tirelessly and with great vision, over a period of more than 23 years, to improve care for seriously ill Kansans. Her leadership is demonstrated on the local, state and national level and has enabled Hospice Services to do something that some say cannot be done — provide quality hospice services in a geographic area with extremely small population.

She has demonstrated ongoing leadership and vision in her work



hospice services inc.

- end-of-life care

with the Kansas Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and currently serves as chair of that group.

Kuhlman is active with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, having served on numerous task groups and committees, and works intensely on issues related to rural access to quality care.

She serves on the LIFE Project Board of Directors and provides consistent, steady and passionate leadership that never settles for status quo. She is a frequent speaker — locally, statewide and nationally. Sandy brings creative thinking and action to meeting the needs of Kansans living with illness and is a leader among us in improving expectations for and provision of quality care.

Kuhlman consistently serves as a quality healthcare professional, a consumer advocate and a champion for advancement in public policy. Her depth of leadership and scope of engagement qualify her to be the recipient of the Emily Taylor Champion for LIFE Award.

Taylor was recognized, posthumously, last year for her leadership and work in helping to create qual-

ity of life for citizens living near the end of life. The work of the LIFE Project captured Taylor’s

heart, mind and action, and all Kansans are recipients of the outcome of her tireless efforts.

The award will be given annually to a grassroots leader who demonstrates, as Taylor did, outstanding leadership in improving care for Kansans living with serious and terminal illnesses.

The Kansas LIFE Project is a collaborative effort of more than 100 Kansas organizations, agencies and associations working to help Kansans with advanced chronic and terminal illnesses live with dignity, comfort and peace.

The Kansas LIFE Project works to promote sound public policy, professional expertise and empowered citizen engagement in efforts that support quality of life for citizens and families living with serious illnesses.

Written by Julia Schemper, administrative assistant at Hospice Services Inc., Box 116, Phillipsburg, Kan. 67661. Contact her or Kuhlman at 800-315-5122. Hospices serves northwest and northcentral Kansas and has been providing end-of-life care for more than 23 years.

4-H news

The meeting of the Beaver Valley 4-H Club was called to order Monday, Sept. 12, at the First Christian Church. There were 10 members, three parents and two leaders present.

Roll call was answered by “what you did this summer.” After reading

and approval of minutes, the meeting went to reports of officers and leaders. There was no unfinished or new business, so the club held the election of officers.

The new officers are president, Andrea Roeder; vice president, Paige Phillips; secretary, Felicia

Arnold; treasurer, Tanicia Arnold; reporter, Felicia Arnold; council representatives, Felicia and Tanicia Arnold; historian, Miranda Hernandez; song leaders, Shyanne Austin and Shelby Arnold; recreation leaders, Kala Sharp, Carlee Raile and Miranda Hernandez. The lead-

ers are Lori Phillips and Janet Arnold. Announcements were then read by Andrea; she said guest night is next month, and everyone should

bring at least one guest. She also encouraged all to attend the 4-H open house Sunday, Oct. 2, at the 4-H building.

The meeting was adjourned by saying the 4-H motto.

Submitted by Club Reporter Felicia Arnold.

Kansas’ ‘Fleagle Gang’ Fingerprint ends nationwide ’20s manhunt

We watch Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) shows on television about using fingerprints to find criminals. “The Fleagle Gang, Betrayed by a fingerprint,” is a true crime story that begins with a brazen daylight robbery of the First National Bank in Lamar, Colo. on May 23, 1928. Four men are dead, and the robbers have escaped.

Author Tom (N.T.) Betz, editor of *The Goodland Star-News*, has spent a lifetime in journalism and on the Great Plains.

Five-star reviews at Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble say the book is a must read for true crime buffs of all ages.

This would make a great Christmas gift - order now.

Betz will be at the Fick Fossil and History Museum in Oakley 2-4 p.m. (CT) on Saturday, Oct. 29.

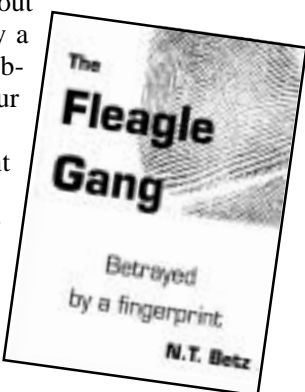
“The Fleagle Gang” details the robbery/murder case which hinged on a single fingerprint — precursor to today’s CSI shows — found on a murdered Dighton, Kan., doctor’s car. The fledgling FBI plays a crucial role in turning the fingerprint into solid forensic evidence used to find, arrest and convict members of the Fleagle Gang. The FBI credits the Fleagle case as 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. He has won awards in Colorado, Kansas and the National Newspaper Association for writing and photography.

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

“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** and **Hastings** in Garden City, Kan., the **High Plains Museum** in Goodland, Kan. and the **Keystone Gallery** north of Scott City. It is available on-line from the publisher **Authorhouse.com**. Linda Knott’s new web bookstore **knottjustbooks.spreadtheword.com**, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and other major stores.

Check out “The Fleagle Gang” web site at: **nwkansas.com/home/fleaglegang**.



FIELD OF SCREAMS!

Fri. Oct. 28 & Sat. Oct. 29

The Goodland Corn Maze will be HAUNTED!!!!

By the Goodland High School FCCLA.

Opening at dark.

Last one in at 9:30 pm

NO group discounts or coupons apply.

On Friday, bundle up and see the Mel Gibson thriller, **SIGNS**, rated PG 13, and sponsored by The Carnegie Arts Center and Goodland Public Library.

The show starts at dark! Donations to the Library and Arts Center are gratefully accepted.



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