

William Kuhrt was example of success story

By Evelyn Ward
Sherman County Historical Society
November 28, 1905: STAYED WITH THE COUNTY — A Sample of Success — William Kuhrt of Shermanville Township Has Wrought Marvelously — Many countries under the sun are represented in Sherman County in the persons of some of our most respected citizens, and in this article it is Germany.

The representative of this paper spent Sunday in a snug little home in Shermanville township, and thereby hangs our story.

We would have never known so much of the Fatherland nor appreciated quite so well the bubbling social side of William Kuhrt had we not spent the day with the man that was born near the Baltic sea. His stay in Sherman County has blessed him with lands and herds, domestic happiness and four bright children, all born in Sherman County.

It will be 20 years next spring since he came to Sherman County and took a claim just south of the Beaver creek, 16 miles northeast of Goodland. If the assessor should

today in history

have called on him then to take an inventory of his wealth, Kuhrt could truthfully have said: "Vell, put down my wife and me, and say dat my goal is of der stuff dat dreams are made of"

Hence, not burdened with money, he worked at anything he could find to do. He was a mason by trade and secured odd jobs from time to time and years ago built a bake oven that contributed so well to the future material welfare of the late "Dad" Auer.

So were the crude monuments of Kuhrt's handiwork scattered along the way, out of which came his bread and butter and a few dollars besides as a lever to pry against the weight of coming days.

During the hard times from crop failure, this man and his helpful mate "held down" the homestead. To say that they stayed while others left is not, however, strictly true.

Kuhrt faltered once and went west for a short time, but he soon

came back to the midst of the exodus from Sherman County, reoccupied his mortgaged farm, and struggled on. The tide in his affairs now turned, and while others were still leaving, Kuhrt bought more land at very low prices.

Today William Kuhrt owns two sections of land in a very choice location on the Beaver. His holdings would be cheap at \$10,000, and the whole family is contented and happy.

Their home on the creek is pleasantly located. The Beaver at this point has running water in it, clear and free the whole year round. The bluffs break away north and south, between which the meandering stream winds gracefully, bordered by natural meadows furnishing an abundance of hay, the home of grouse and prairie chickens, while fish of various kinds abound in the stream.

In this sheltered and sequestered nook of the great plains stands the

humble but comfortable farm home partly constructed of sod and partly of stone. A 75-foot shed shelters the cattle from the north winds. A barn 28x70 feet furnishes stable room for the horses and dairy cows, storage for 35 tons of hay and a granary of well-filled bins of barley.

Besides this, long stacks of hay parallel the barn. A short distance to the north is a large granary filled with corn and wheat.

On the northern slope stands a new stone building, half of which is a new poultry house, and the other half contains a gasoline engine and bone mill to grind winter feed for the large flock of gallinaceous fowls, mostly of the Brown Leghorn variety. A capacious cave furnishes the storage room for milk and butter.

One interesting and historic relic stands just north of the farm house. It is the first post office building erected in Sherman County, a sod building with two rooms, with cottonwood beams and willows supporting a dirt roof. Here "Uncle Sam" put out his sign for the first time in the county's history, some

20 years ago.

It is now utilized as a chicken house, and besides the roosts and boxes, not for mail but for eggs, a small stove is provided to keep the fowls warm in the very coldest weather.

Mr. Kuhrt has, besides meadow and farm land, a young orchard, strawberry beds, windmill and reservoir and an irrigated truck patch. No landlord asks for rent here, no grocery man presents monthly bills.

The dairy, the truck patch and the fowls pay all bills in advance. Kuhrt is both his own village blacksmith and mason.

His gasoline engine will not only grind bones, but will run the cream separator, the grindstone, the corn sheller and the feed grinder. The whole place is competence, contentment, success and independence wrought out on the Kansas plains by industry, courage and the staying qualities of the typical pioneer.

Moreover, this settler is not out of the world here but at its very center. Ten miles to the south spins the through trains of the great Rock Is-

land system, and 16 miles is the county seat and division station at Goodland.

Newspapers, daily and weekly, visit his home. Neighbors are near, and one mile away is a fine modern school house, with a fine organ among the furnishings, where the children attend school and all attend religious meetings of the neighborhood.

November 29, 1905: Guilty of Manslaughter — Charles Stevenson, the Killer of Tutt, Convicted — Charles Stevenson, who killed John Tutt, colored, at Herndon, Rawlins County, about two months ago over a drink of whisky, was found guilty of manslaughter in the second degree by a jury at Atwood last week. He was sentenced to the penitentiary for a term not less than three nor more than five years. The case has been appealed on error to the state supreme 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.

Cold, power outage disrupted typical Monday for everyone

Mondays are usually tough; we shouldn't expect any different. But a little thing called a winter storm made yesterday tougher than usual.

My alarm went off at 6:15. The CD played just long enough to wake me and then stopped. As the lights went out, I realized the power had gone out again. I got up, so I wouldn't fall soundly asleep with nothing to wake me up. A trip to the bathroom quickly uncovered a problem, ice-cold water.

Realizing the water heater wasn't even trying to kick in, I decided the pilot light must be off. Not knowing how to light one, I called a friend. She said her husband would come help in a little while.

I waited until I realized that even if he lit the pilot light, the water wouldn't warm up before I needed to get to work. Then I took a shower that should make me an official member of the Polar Bears Club. I didn't do this easily. I had to talk



sharon corcoran

- just for fun

myself into it. I knew washing my hair would be a mistake, so I put it up with a clip to keep it as dry as possible and turned on the "hot" water faucet in the shower.

I tried putting just my arm in to convince myself it wasn't that cold. It was. I tried my leg. Also too cold. Then I dipped my hands into the water with soap and lathered up while standing on the bath mat, so I would only have to rinse off. Besides, then I would have no choice but to get in.

Once showered and dressed (by flashlight) I called the friend back and said not to get out in the weather; I would ask the landlord to

take care of it while I was at work.

When I got to the office, I was immediately sent back out in the cold to interview "storm refugees" at the Max Jones Fieldhouse. Irritated, I went out. I was cold, my day was off to a bad start and not getting better; I wanted to go back to bed and pretend none of this was happening.

Talking to the assortment of Walmart evacuees (the store had to close sometime), most of whom were very positive, especially for the circumstances, made me forget for awhile how cold I was.

Some time back in the cold wind, followed by a return to the office brought it all back to me. With the power back on, however, I thought things would get better, but that was short-lived.

Then I realized everything I

needed to do required either the computer or the phone, both of which were off with the power out. I sat at my desk in my coat, hat and gloves waiting for it to come back on.

A little after noon, Tom decided to send me home, since I still couldn't do my work. Once at home, I discovered I had hot water, but that was the only thing with any warmth.

I tried unsuccessfully to call my friends to let them know it was fixed and ask if they had power and then tried a couple more calls, had a snack and burrowed under a quilt and an afghan on the couch.

I was able to doze off for awhile, but when I woke, I needed a bathroom. Oh, no, it's colder out there than before. I can hold it until the power comes on, right? Nope. Must go. I then made a cup of "hot" cocoa from hot tap water and warmed

up a little, tried to call friends again, then took the quilt into the bedroom and burrowed under it and the comforter.

By 3:30 p.m., the house was really cold. I think I saw my breath. I called my friends again. She said it was 27 degrees in their house, so they were going to get their propane heater. Would I like to come over? Without a doubt.

On the way over, I noticed Pizza Hut and Gambino's had power and seemed to be open. The idea of eating a cold dinner was really unappealing; maybe we can call for hot food. My friend sent me back for candles; we need light. On the return trip, I stopped at Pizza Hut. They weren't taking any more orders, out of dough.

Gambino's had a shorter line. Not only could I order food, I could get a large pizza for a medium price.

They weren't sure how long it would take. When I tried to call at 5:30, no one answered, so I drove down to pick it up. Now they had a long line who got to watch me take my pizza and run while they waited.

Larry McCants, president of First National Bank, was in the kitchen. They looked like they needed help, he said.

The Knudsens, who I had talked to at the Max Jones Fieldhouse, were in the restaurant when I ordered. They said all the "refugees" were being moved to the high school gym. It was the only place with heat, and now everyone's being packed in like sardines, they said.

The storm and the cold disrupted everyone's day, but I can say for sure, when the power came back on, we appreciated more than ever how easy it makes our lives.

4-H news

The regular monthly meeting of the Sunflower 4-H Club was held Monday, Nov. 14, at the Rockhouse. In the absence of the club president, the meeting was called to order by Dusti Chadwick.

Roll call of "What do you want for Christmas?" was answered by 19 members, nine parents, three leaders and one guest.

The business meeting opened with the club singing "Turkey Dinner," as led by Chandler Pettibone.

Reports were received from club officers, leaders and committees.

Cris Reibel was presented with the outstanding leader award, as she was the founding leader for the Sunflower 4-H Club. Thanks for organizing and assisting our club during your years of leadership.

A ceremony was presented to welcome three new members to the club, Tyler Neufeld, Lindsay Bauman and Makayla Fitzgibbons.

Chandler Pettibone presented a

health and safety tip on avoiding illness by washing your hands. A person should sing "Happy Birthday" and continue washing until you have finished washing.

Saige VanDiver presented a current event, and Sarah Johnson recited a poem, "Monster Manners."

Recreation was led by Lindsay Bowman and Sarah Johnson.

Submitted by Michael Pettibone, club reporter.



Pictured are Joni Guyer, Nicki Glassman, Lori Leonard, Marsha Schilling, Bryan Guyer, Bailee Guyer and the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and Ambassadors.

The
Goodland Star-News
and The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and Ambassadors

welcome

Prairie Rose

November 19th marked the Grand Opening of Prairie Rose Floral Co. located at 1012 Main Street in Goodland. Joni Guyer, owner and manager, along with her husband, Barry, said she really missed the business since owning Cobblestone Floral & Garden for five years before it sold. Joni used her time between businesses to travel with her daughter, Bailee, mostly to New York where Bailee worked on her modeling career. Bailee now lives in Colby and is attending Colby Community College where she is majoring in Business Management. Joni's son, Bryan helps out at the store as "family is a vital part of my business", she says. When not tending cattle, there are three girls that work part-time for Prairie Rose; Nicki Glassman, Lori Leonard, Marsha Schilling.

When asked what she loved best about her business, Joni replied, "I like the creative aspect of it, the freedom of owning my own business, but most of all, I love the idea of being able to brighten someones day."

Joni is currently taking orders for fresh-cut Christmas tree as well as Poinsettias and can get the plants in red, white, pink, jinglebell, and the new burgundy and khaki. Store house are Monday through Saturday from 8:30 to 5 PM and also will be open Christmas Eve 8:30 to noon.

Prairie Rose 1012 Main 785-890-ROSE



Retirement Is No Time To Slow Down

When advanced knee or hip pain severely limits your ability to walk, work or enjoy leisure activities, joint replacement should be considered.

In its early stages, joint pain may be relieved with anti-inflammatory medications, injections or arthroscopic surgery. However, as pain progresses, joint replacement surgery may be the best solution for long-term pain relief.

Could you be a candidate for hip, knee, shoulder or other joint surgery?

Hip

- Do you have hip, groin, or thigh pain when walking or standing?
- Have you noticed a loss of motion of your hip?
- Does your hip or leg pain limit what activities you may participate in?
- Do you have difficulty getting up from a chair or going up steps due to hip or leg pain?

Knee

- Does your knee swell or feel "stiff" after activity?
- Do you have knee pain during or after activity?
- Does your knee "pop" or "crunch" when you move it?
- Does knee pain limit what activities you participate in?

Shoulder

- Have you noticed a loss of motion in your shoulder?
- Do you have pain in your shoulder when you lift objects?
- Does shoulder pain limit what activities you participate in?
- Does your shoulder "pop" or make "crunching" noises when you move it?

If you answered "YES" to two or more of these questions, you should consider seeing your physician or orthopedic specialist about whether knee or hip replacement may be right for you.

Joint Care...for life!



JOINT CARE CENTER
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2220 Canterbury Drive, Hays, Kansas 67601
(785) 623-2199 1-800-735-8364

