

# City paid \$300 for Opera House, sold it for \$1,030

**By Evelyn Ward**  
*Sherman County Historical Society*  
**December 23, 1905:** Opera House Brings \$1,030 — The opera house was built by W.P.K. Hedrick during the early history of the town, and when the smash came and property values dropped out of sight, the city bought the building from C.F. Weber for \$300 to save it from being torn down.  
Goodland has held it for a number of years, but was now needing the money for other and more important city improvements, it was disposed of. People think that the time has come in Goodland's history when some one will volunteer to build an opera house to meet the growing demands of the city, and what will be done in this direction remains to be seen.  
The Goodland opera house was

## today in history

sold to the highest bidder, and bought by William Walker for \$1,030. There were three bidders for the building — William Walker, Richard Auer and H.W. Stewart. William Walker says that the building, for the time being, will be reserved for the same purposes as it has been used for, but he intends to ultimately to make use of it as an implement house.  
The old wooden tank was sold at the same sale for \$80, and two more gasoline engine cooling tanks went for \$14 each, all of which were bought by Walker.  
**December 24, 1905:** Exercises At School — Last Friday was the last day of school before Christmas

at the Goodland city schools, and scholars in the different grades prepared and rendered programs.  
In the high school room, they debated on the question of woman suffrage; they gave pleasing recitations; sang solos, duets and quartets.  
Lowell Shaw played a flute solo. Don Dawson, with trombone, and Tom Swarts with cornet, played a duet.  
Miss Odell read a potpourri consisting of rhyme, wit, puns and prophecy of great things to come of the present members of the high school. It was well written and listened to with much interest.  
At the conclusion of the exercises, a handsome alarm clock was

presented to Prof. Mallory and one to Miss Cardwell also, by the school.  
**December 25, 1905:** W.C.T.U. Column — At Christmas, of all times, there should be perfect harmony among men. One who harbors in his heart a grudge against any of his fellows cannot possibly enter into the spirit of the season as he should; neither can he expect his prayers to be acceptable to that Christ who taught us when we pray to say, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."  
All wrongs must be righted, all transgressions blotted out from our remembrance and all injustice wholly forgiven or Christmas has failed of its mission in our hearts. God bless us every one, and may 1906 be the happiest year in the life

of every man, woman and child in Sherman County.  
**December 26, 1905:** The United States land office has an order from the department of interior suspending commuted homestead proofs in Kansas pending an investigation.  
The order means that, until further notice, holders of homestead claims will not be allowed to make final proof on their claim. This is another move on the part of the department of interior in connection with the land fraud investigation commenced by the federal grand jury.  
The federal grand jury investigated fencing of government land in Logan and Wallace counties, hearing witnesses regarding "land grabbers." There are many thousand of acres of land fenced in that section of the state, which is said to

have been fenced illegally.  
"This is but the beginning of the investigation," said Mr. Dean, United States district attorney. "The intention is to completely wipe out the illegal fencing of government lands. The department of the interior has decided that this must be done, and the officers have collected enough evidence to make the 'land grabbers' leave the country. They must stop building fences around land they do not own. I presume the investigation will last through several terms; it will be kept up until they are out of the state or are obeying the federal laws."  
*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.*

# Planning ahead and being careful increase safety in holiday traffic

The time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day includes some of the heaviest travel days of the year, and there are some things you can do to ensure a safer trip for you and your family.  
While a white Christmas makes for a great memory, it doesn't present the most ideal driving conditions.  
While you should keep your vehicle in top operating condition all year round, it is especially important to get it winterized to avoid dangerous situations while traveling in winter weather.  
Before you depart on your trip, have a qualified mechanic check all the car's vitals: brakes, battery, fluid



## sandy praeger

- insurance comm.

come in handy.  
The following suggestions, compiled from a variety of sources, could help ensure that you make it safely to your travel destinations.  
• Get plenty of sleep before a long trip.  
• Allow enough time for the trip so you are not rushed.  
• If you have a cell phone, be sure to have it fully charged and take it with you.  
• All passengers should wear a seatbelt.  
• Make sure everything is securely stowed when you pack your

vehicle. Even small objects can become dangerous missiles in the event of a sudden stop.  
• Keep the gas tank at least half full at all times.  
• Clear snow and ice from all windows, lights, hood and roof before driving.  
• Drive with your headlights on.  
• Take frequent breaks on longer trips.  
• Reduce your speed. Drive at a speed that matches the visibility, traffic and road conditions. Posted speed limits are for dry, clear conditions.  
• Watch for slick spots under bridges and on overpasses.  
• Don't use your cruise control or

overdrive when it's freezing (or colder). Even roads that appear clear can have isolated slippery spots, and the short touch of your brakes to deactivate cruise control can cause you to lose control of your vehicle. With overdrive, as you encounter a hill, your vehicle automatically accelerates or downshifts, which can cause loss of traction.  
• Do not eat, drink or use a cell phone while driving.  
• Be on the alert for deer crossing the roadways, especially at dawn and dusk.  
Have a safe trip!  
Sandy Praeger, Kansas Insurance

Commissioner, oversees the activities of the Kansas Insurance Department, which is headquartered in Topeka. Her objective is to protect consumers and help maintain the financial stability of the insurance industry.  
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# If Christmas is 'holiday,' what do you call Easter?

Well, the Christmas season is almost here. Are you through with getting ready? Seems this time of year just goes by way too fast.  
There's been so much talk about saying "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays," and I understand that we are a mixed nation. But if it had not been for the birth of Christ and God's promise to us, we wouldn't have a Merry Christmas.  
What are we supposed to call Easter next spring? Have you thought much about that? Guess I'd better change the subject before I say too much, but it really bothers me.  
Dot Mayer, a former resident of Brewster, who now lives in Montrose, Colo., living in a rest home, is in critical condition. She is over 100 years old and has a lot of



## betty jo baird

- brewster news

family and friends around Brewster, so our prayers go out to her.  
The Brewster schools had their Christmas program on Thursday, and the Methodist women held drawings for their two quilts. One was won by Nadine Kammer and the other one went to Janet Pinkleman.  
We want to keep all of those who are ill in our prayers, including my daughter, Dana. Her transplanted kidney is not taking the chemo too well, so she has been in the hospital most of the week. I plan on going out when she is able to come home. I can do more for her then than I can just sitting in the hospital room.  
I do want to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Dearest Child, I want to tell you a secret. I want to show you a path of joy. I want to open a door for you that leads to blessing.  
The key to that door is marked "giving," but giving without expecting any reward or praise from

other people.  
When you give secretly to others without expecting them to reward you, I will reward you with a quiet inner joy. When you do your good deeds, expecting no fanfare from people, there will be great fanfare for you in heaven.  
Trust me, my child. Think today of some need that you can meet in secret. Then go about meeting that need in a quiet and thankful way. I will be with you. And we will rejoice together! Generously, God. Matthew 6:1-4.

*Thank You*

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*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

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**ACROSS**

- Grain to be ground
- Job detail, for short
- Window frame
- Totaled, costwise
- "\_\_ Nagila"
- Whodunit board game
- Songwriters' org.
- Jungle swingers
- Emcee Trebek
- Con artists play music?
- Pie a la \_\_
- The "L" in UNLV
- Acted the siren
- Used mouthwash
- Map rtes.
- Trim to fit, maybe
- Actor Sandler
- Barely sufficient
- U2 vocalist
- State with a panhandle
- Natural emollient
- Italics feature
- Teller's call
- "\_\_ Lisa"
- Something to shuck
- Hawk or eagle
- W.C. Fields persona
- Staff, in a way
- Touched down
- Chimney cleaners show sorrow?
- Onetime Yugoslav leader
- Nervous twitches
- Sand trap selection
- Bard's river
- Slaughter in baseball
- Bottled water name
- Artist Magritte
- Depend
- Oboe's pair

**DOWN**

- Mardi \_\_
- Diaper problem
- Andean of old
- Take the lead

- Force from office
- Persian leaders of old
- One of the Three Bears
- Tennis star Chris
- Comics ghost
- Mischief-makers rough it?
- Mete out
- "Blue \_\_ Shoes"
- Put a spell on
- Begin's co-Nobelists
- Rx prescribers
- Lee's men, for short
- Temple figure
- Caravel of 1492
- Mick and mates shape up?
- Thieves' hangout
- Feller's tool
- Upper limit, informally
- Oodles

- Taboo thing
- Mad dash
- Seat belt part
- Brewpub fixture
- Baseball scorecard listing
- "Jeopardy!" offering
- Middle Ages invader
- Martini garnish
- Delay, in a way
- Bale binder
- Like Oscar Madison
- Earth-friendly sci.
- "\_\_ Only Just Begun"
- Sedgwick or McClurg
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