

Sod house gives guests feeling of Plains history



SODDY, from Page 1a

Kansas, the Cheyenne Hole Massacre, Fort Wallace and Sheridan, the wickedest little town in Kansas. There are also books telling about sod houses and how they were built.

The soddy, which served as a post office and was on the map as Minor, Kan., is on the National Register of Historic Places for two reasons, Fred Juenemann said: because it's an original sod house and because there was a post office on the property for 10 years.

The post office was in the sod house for part of that time, he said, and was in a separate building that was also a grocery the rest. The Juenemanns have a post card addressed to Lela Minor (daughter of Tom and Mary Minor) at Minor, Kan., with the post mark.

There is no television in the

house, but there is radio, a record player and cassettes of old-time radio shows. People love the calm and quiet, said Fred Juenemann, and the sunsets and stars.

Some have enjoyed the storms, and others have enjoyed buffalo hunting at Ken and Laurie Klem's ranch. There has only been one couple who didn't like staying in the soddy, Juenemann said; they were kind of a "yuppie" couple who received the stay as a gift.

Others have enjoyed the trip back in time, and many have written in the guest book how much they liked the soddy. A family that stayed in the soddy during a fierce dust storm last year enjoyed their experience so much they came back and told others about the place.

They went into the house when the wind came up, Lesa Juenemann said, and they stayed inside until the storm was over. When they went

out, she said, there were tree branches down all around their vehicle and a pile of dust had come in through one of the doors, but that didn't ruin their trip. They thought it was neat to see, Fred Juenemann said, and couldn't wait to come back to see what other sights the Kansas weather has in store.

A woman who had worked in the inner city in Chicago wrote in the guest book that the dark and quiet at the soddy rivaled the fear of the inner city.

"As I read that," he said, "I thought, 'Oh, no. She hated it,' but as I read on, she said she enjoyed it."

A couple came on the hottest, dirtiest day of the year three years ago, Lesa Juenemann said; they were from Kansas City, and he was president of a big hotel there.

They turned down the steak dinner, she said, and went to the town hot-dog/watermelon feed in Brewster.

"I thought they would hate it — they were used to luxury," she said, "but they loved it; they couldn't say enough about what a great time they had."

The family lived in the soddy until the early 1950s, Lesa Juenemann said, and it was restored in the early '60s. It was full of antiques, but had to be cleaned out in the '80s because thieves and vandals had broken in..

"Then Fred came along and said we were going to do a bed and breakfast," she said. "We thought he was crazy."

"I thought mom would support me," Fred Juenemann said, "but she thought I was crazy, too."

But they spent a year working on the soddy before opening the bed and breakfast in 2001.

It has been fun, Fred Juenemann said, and it's been a great way to keep up a piece of history.

Fred and Lesa Juenemann use an old, electric washing machine to decorate a corner in the Minor Sod House Bed and Breakfast. They have acquired several treasures for the soddy from antique stores and auctions. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Old house, now bed and breakfast, in family for nearly 97 years

The Minor Family Sod House Bed and Breakfast, owned by Fred and Lesa Juenemann of Brewster, is on property owned by her family for nearly 97 years.

Tom and Mary Minor moved into the year-old sod house in Rawlins County in 1909. The land along the Beaver Creek was originally a timber claim of Samuel Dunlap and had later been owned by his widow Icyphene, her mother-in-law, three children and new husband John C. Welch, a school teacher.

Icyphene sold the property to C.P. Dewey, a Chicago banker, owner of the giant Oak Ranch and father to Chauncey Dewey of the Dewey-Berry Feud fame. From 1903 to

1906, there were several ownership transfers recorded by Dewey, his wife and several of his business associates.

In October 1906, John Forrest bought the property. He sold it to Sidney Graves in 1907, and Graves sold it to Tom Minor in January of 1909, with a "1-year-old" sod house on it.

The soddy was built at a time when most people were putting up wood homes or expanding their sod houses, Fred Juenemann said, and was probably built because having wood and other materials shipped in was expensive.

They wouldn't have to buy any wood, he said; most of the materi-

als were right there. Construction would have been a lot of work, though, because sod bricks are heavy.

The Minors had wed in Maryville, Mo., on May 16, 1878. He was 22; she was 15. They had 12 children, six born in Missouri and six in Nebraska.

They moved from Maryville to Nance County, Neb., to a farm near Fullerton in 1890. He not only farmed but also ran a butcher shop and grocery.

Land was cheaper to buy in Kansas, and Tom Minor, then 53, wanted to raise cattle and horses and alfalfa to make hay. The six younger children moved with them to the

soddy.

They were five daughters, Clara, 16; twins, Lula and Lela, almost 14; Viola, 11; Dorothy, 6; and a son, Harold, 9. Clyde, 29, Pearl, 28, and Will, 27, were married. Charley, almost 24, Guy, 22, and Rose, 18, had jobs in Nebraska.

Eight horses, six cows, furniture and the family dog were loaded into box cars at Fullerton. Guy and Rose rode along to help. The cows and horses had to be taken out to be fed and watered. At one stop, the dog got away. It arrived back home in Nebraska a week later.

At 18' X40' and with four rooms, the sod house was bigger than most. It had 2-foot walls, wood floors, glass windows and wood shingles on the roof. When Mary Minor saw the soddy, the family says, she wanted to go home.

But they tore off the course plas-

ter from the walls and covered them smooth, built a wood frame addition to the east side of the house (a kitchen pantry and bedroom) and added a "Round Oak" stove for heat and a "Home Comfort" coal/wood stove for cooking, baking and heating.

After Tom's death in 1944, Mary continued to live in the soddy until 1949, when she moved to Goodland to live with Harold. Their daughter Dorothy and husband Jess Yankey lived in the soddy until they built a house just south of it on the property. In 1955, they moved to Arkansas, Jess's home state.

They sold the farm to Buell and Ruth Briney, son of Lula (Minor) and Bernard Briney. Several years went by, and Lula decided she would like to restore the soddy, so she, Buell and Ruth made plans and redid the stucco on the outside

walls, took the wood floors out and replaced them with concrete, replaced the wood shingles with tin and replastered the inside walls. A large square in the parlor was left unplastered and covered with a pane of glass so the real sod would show.

Lela and Harold also helped with the restoration. All of the walls were painted, some of the old furniture was brought out and glued and re-finished. A tablecloth, bedding, dishes, cooking utensils, telephone and other items were added to make the soddy as it was years ago.

Electricity was added as a convenience. When all this was completed, an open house was held in June 1964.

Lesa Juenemann is the daughter of Buell and Ruth Briney. Buell still lives a few miles from the soddy, but Ruth died October 18, 2004.

Gov. requests aid for storm effects

After receiving a final damage report, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has requested federal assistance to help Sherman and 17 other counties recover from the effects of the winter storm just after the Thanksgiving holiday.

The winter storm left over 1,200 homes and businesses without power, including police departments, fire departments and hospitals, and stranded motorists during one of the busiest travel weekends of the year.

"Local emergency responders and the National Guard should be commended for the assistance they provided to residents and travelers

caught in the storm," said Sebelius.

"I'm requesting federal help in the recovery effort because of the damage to local infrastructure, particularly power lines and transformers."

The total estimated eligible damage in these 18 counties is more than \$10 million.

In addition to Sherman, other counties included are Cheyenne, Decatur, Edwards, Ellis, Graham, Gove, Hodgeman, Ness, Norton, Pawnee, Phillips, Rawlins, Rooks, Rush, Sheridan, Thomas and Trego.

Four state agencies helped with response and recovery, as well did the American Red Cross.

The Kansas National Guard and relief agencies created temporary shelters for about 1,600 stranded travelers in western Kansas, and mutual aid agreements between local rural electric cooperatives were activated to get power on.

Sebelius asked for Public Assistance Program help to restore damaged infrastructure under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

These damages include such things as power lines and poles and extensive debris. Power has been restored to almost all affected areas, although many of the repairs are temporary.

Crossword Puzzle

Across

- Sauce with fish sticks
- Bit of vocal fanfare
- Like NASDAQ trades
- Strongly opposed
- Court order
- "Uh-uh"
- Relevant example
- Suffix with ethyl
- Nay sayers
- Like some football kicks
- Went for the cuspidor
- Store overhead
- Bad day for Caesar
- The whole shebang
- Rabbits, squirrels, etc., to a hunter
- Israeli spy agency
- Perrier competitor
- Fainted dead away
- Lessens the pressure
- Raw, as a diamond
- Hit the hay
- Audiophile's buy
- Sought office
- Gelato holder
- Clove hitch, e.g.
- Boxer's prize
- Ship's steerer
- Atoll makeup
- Munched on
- One in a book of 20, perhaps
- Stew spheroid
- Go sour
- Win over
- Blow it
- Blinds component
- Feared fly

Down

- Tic ___ (miniature mint)
- Actress Gardner
- ___ judicata
- Grab the tab
- Z, ___ zebra
- Has a flat
- Duo
- Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
- The Flintstones' pet
- Memo abbr.
- Five Nations tribe
- Two-seat cycle
- Burger option
- Indy stops
- Official seal
- ___ Club (retail chain)
- Oxen's burden
- "Not to mention ..."
- Ballpark antic
- Bull tosser
- Emit coherent light
- Went bad
- Diarist Frank
- Art ___ (retro style)
- Twilight time
- King's title
- River to the Caspian
- ___ up (confined)
- Like old paperback novels
- Bactine target
- Plug giver
- Make beloved
- Tugboat signal
- Lovers' rendezvous
- Fan part
- Attendance figs., often
- Actor ___ Julia
- Iowa State city
- Lobster ___ Diavolo
- Mummified king
- Document dupes: Abbr.
- Front end of a bray

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Sports television schedule

SATURDAY MORNING			
10:00 13/7 FOX NFL Under the Helmet	13/7 FOX NFL Sunday		
22/28 ESPN College Gameday	23/29 ESPN2 Mother's Car Show		
32/58 FAM Wendy's High-School Heisman Seniors	61/72 SPK UFC Unleashed		
63/67 BRAVO Celebrity Poker Showdown	10:30 23/29 ESPN2 Mother's Car Show		
11:00 5 HBO Real Sports Highlights of 2005	11:00 3/9 NBC The Quest II:		
22/28 ESPN College Football Autozone Liberty Bowl	4/6 ABC NBA Inside Stuff		
— Fresno State vs. Tulsa. From Memphis, Tenn.	7/11 CBS NFL Football Cincinnati Bengals at Kansas City Chiefs.		
30/27 FXSP The Sports List	13/7 FOX NFL Football Carolina Panthers at Atlanta Falcons.		
51/49 TRAV World Poker Tour	22/28 ESPN World's Strongest Man Competition		
11:30 30/27 FXSP Fuel TV Special	23/29 ESPN2 Figure Skating Grand Prix Final.		
AFTERNOON			
12:00 5 HBO Inside the NFL	30/27 FXSP FLW Outdoors From Mobile, Ala.		
30/27 FXSP College Basketball Arizona at Washington.	11:30 22/28 ESPN World's Strongest Man Competition		
12:30 3/9 NBC 8/8 NBC Skiing Olympic Freestyle Trials.	AFTERNOON		
23/29 ESPN2 College Football EV1.Net Houston Bowl — Iowa State vs. Texas Christian. From Houston.	12:00 22/28 ESPN World's Strongest Man Competition	30/27 FXSP In Fisherman Critical Concepts	
1:00 13/7 FOX Raceline	12:30 3/9 NBC 8/8 NBC U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame Induction	12:30 3/9 NBC 8/8 NBC U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame Induction	
51/49 TRAV World Poker Tour	22/28 ESPN World's Strongest Man Competition	30/27 FXSP The Sports List	
1:30 7/11 CBS NFL Today Host	1:00 22/28 ESPN World's Strongest Man Competition	30/27 FXSP Billiards World Pool Championship	
12/3 WB The American Athlete	1:30 22/28 ESPN World's Strongest Man Competition	2:00 7/11 CBS NFL Postgame	
13/7 FOX Steel Dreams	13/7 FOX NFL Football Regional Coverage — Chicago Bears at Minnesota Vikings or Washington Redskins at Philadelphia Eagles.	22/28 ESPN World's Strongest Man Competition	
2:00 30/27 FXSP College Basketball MetroPCS Orange Bowl Classic — Louisville at Miami. From the BankAtlantic Center in Sunrise, Fla.	22/28 ESPN2 Poker World Series of Poker Tournament of Champions	23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball Alabama at Oklahoma.	
2:30 7/11 CBS NFL Football Denver Broncos at San Diego Chargers.	30/27 FXSP Women's College Basketball UCLA at Stanford.	3:00 4/6 ABC PGA Tour Season Preview	
22/28 ESPN College Basketball Alabama at Oklahoma.	2:30 22/28 ESPN World's Strongest Man Competition	51/49 TRAV World Poker Tour	
3:00 4/6 ABC PGA Tour Season Preview	3:00 7/11 CBS Skiing Jeep King of the Mountain	4:00 2/2 PBS Cabin Country Pheasant	
51/49 TRAV World Poker Tour	22/28 ESPN World's Strongest Man Competition	23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball St. Joseph's at Gonzaga.	
4:00 2/2 PBS Cabin Country Pheasant	3:30 22/28 ESPN World's Strongest Man Competition	30/27 FXSP College Hockey Wells Fargo Denver Cup Consolation Game	
23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball St. Joseph's at Gonzaga.	4:00 22/28 ESPN World's Strongest Man Competition	4:30 22/28 ESPN Operation Hardwood Coverage.	
30/27 FXSP College Hockey Wells Fargo Denver Cup Consolation Game	30/27 FXSP Magic vs. Bird Game That Changed the Game.	5:00 51/49 TRAV World Poker Tour	
4:30 22/28 ESPN Operation Hardwood Coverage.	5:00 13/7 FOX The OT	99/39 WGN NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Chicago Bulls.	
5:00 51/49 TRAV World Poker Tour	22/28 ESPN SportsCenter	5:30 22/28 ESPN NFL Primetime	
99/39 WGN NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Chicago Bulls.	23/29 ESPN2 2005 World Series of Poker.	SUNDAY MORNING	
5:30 22/28 ESPN NFL Primetime	30/27 FXSP Billiards World Pool Championship.	10:00 5 HBO Legendary Nights	7/11 CBS NFL Today

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