

Museum packed with county historical items

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News
She's the boss, but Linda Holton, director of the High Plains Museum, answers phones, greets visitors and even cleans up.
The dream of a new museum helps encourage her and her three "very part-time" employees to keep collecting pieces of Sherman County history and preserving them for the future.
"A museum is two-thirds storage and one-third exhibits," says Holton.

That way, she said, exhibits can be rotated. After time on exhibit, things need time to rest, recover from light exposure and environmental factors.
In every spare inch of space are shelves with archival boxes labeled and filled with artifacts. The museum has been out of storage space for years, Holton said.
The original part of the building was built in 1959-1960 with an addition for the replica of the first helicopter in 1976.
In 1997, Holton said, the museum had a Conservation Assessment Program done with a grant from the Institute of Museum Services. The assessors told Holton that the museum's artifacts were being "compressed" because they were trying to cram so much in. The pro-



Linda Holton, director of the High Plains Museum, looked at photographs that the Kansas Historical Society printed from glass plate negatives that Frank Horton took in 1909-1916.
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

gram recommended off-site storage, she said.
Another problem with the boxed artifacts was that the contents were mixed, she said. When artifacts were repackaged, they were divided into 24 main categories: accessories; business machines and memorabilia; coins, paper money and metal; china and glass; education; furniture; firearms; fossils and rocks; farm implements and tools; household goods, Indian artifacts; local history; miscellaneous; musical instruments; newspaper and pe-

riodicals; professional equipment; photographic material; quilts and clothing; railroad; schools; toys; temporary loans; and transportation. The museum has rented storage space, but Holton didn't want to say where.
About 2003, she said, the museum got a grant to preserve and develop its collection of 1950s photographs, about 700 photos.
The negatives of the '50s photos were sent to the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka under a grant from Kansas Humanities Council. At Topeka, the negatives were copied onto archival negative materials and printed on archival paper. Archival-grade materials are free of chemicals which might damage the photos, she said, so they last longer with less deterioration.
In all, the museum has around 9,000 photographs and negatives, Holton said, but most have not been copied to archival materials.
The photos and negatives came from private donations, Holton said, including a large collection from the late Marian Parker, a longtime unofficial historian for Sherman County.
Another grant helped the museum make prints and negatives from their collection of 200 glass plate photographs from Frank Horton, given to the museum by Parker.
Horton was a lawyer and amateur photographer in Goodland from 1900-1950. His glass plate photographs from 1909-1916 include pictures of agriculture, architecture, weather, the railroad and rural people.
The archival prints are now stored in large filing cabinets divided into categories. They are protected in plastic sleeves. The prints made from the glass plates are very detailed, Horton said.
Most of the museum's permanent displays cannot be changed due to the shape and size of the building, the director said. Some of the permanent exhibits include a millenary shop, beauty shop and farm implements.
The museum has had visitors from all over the world, she added, and they're usually impressed.
The museum is going to give a presentation at the Sherman County Historical Society's annual meeting at 1:30 on Saturday, Jan. 28, in the public library talking about the land in the southeast part of town donated to the museum and its future possible use.
"Everyone is invited to come," said Dave Branda, president of the Sherman County Historical Society.

Man invents color inserts for those little yard lights

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News
When Dean Graber sees something that needs improvement, he looks for a solution.
His solutions have led to inventions for his own use, but now he has an idea that may one day scatter little colored lights across lawns all over America.
If you're tired of white lights lining your driveway and sidewalks, want to see your favorite color or team colors in lights, want to decorate for a holiday or special occasion or just plain want to be different, his "colored inserts" could be the thing for you.
Graber, a Goodland crop consultant, came up with the idea to change the color of the lights along his



Graber

driveway and sidewalks after noticing his white lights didn't blend with the colored lights he put on his house for Christmas.
"I used to put a lot of lights on the house for Christmas," Graber said. "When the Christmas lights were in color and there were white lights on the driveway, it took away from the aesthetic appeal."
He first shopped for colored bulbs for the landscape lights, but all he found on the Internet were bulbs for \$2.98 each, dipped in colored paint. That was too much, he said, so he tried dipping his own bulbs, but quickly found the heat of the bulbs faded the paint.
"When I put them out, I had beau-

tiful red bulbs," he said, "but within a week, I had pink bulbs."
Redipping was time consuming, so Graber decided there had to be a quicker way that takes less work. His invention can be used with any bulb to change the color and takes less space to store.
If you want to change colors without it, he said, you have to change the whole bulb and then keep an inventory of bulbs in all the colors you want to use. He has 30 bulbs along his driveway and can change the color in all of them in 10-15 minutes with "colored inserts."
"I can change the insert rather than the bulb," he said. "They're easy to store, don't take a lot of room and don't wear out."
Graber said he had about 10 colors of lights along his driveway for the holiday season and was trying to decide what colors to use for January. Since he's a big Kansas State sports fan, he said, he likes to light the driveway in purple from time to time.
Red lights are good for Valentine's Day, he added, green for St. Patrick's Day, red, white and

blue for Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. It's fun to see if people notice it, he said.
After Graber came up with the inserts for himself, he noticed that wherever he went, people had only white lights along their driveways and sidewalks. He figured if he thought it was a good idea to have colored lights in his yard, there had to be someone else who thinks so too.
And then a couple from Denver he had done some work for came by, and the woman noticed his colored lights and said she had never seen anything like them before. She said she would buy the inserts if they were on the market.
Graber started using the inserts at his home in 2001 but didn't try to get them on the market until 2005. He doesn't know how long it will take to find someone to produce and sell them. And they don't have an official name for the product yet.
"I have no idea how it would be marketed," he added.
Graber said he contacted Invention Technologies Inc., a Florida based company that serves as a tal-

ent agent for inventors and their ideas and that calls themselves the "launchpad for new ideas."
If you think the idea's worth it, Graber said, jump through the hoops. Invent-tech has been good to work with, he said, knowledgeable about marketing and helpful with the paperwork and everything.
"It has been enjoyable working with them," he said. "They know how to do a lot of stuff I wouldn't have."
One thing the company is helping with is finding a manufacturer to mass produce the invention, he added.
"We're still looking at different ones," Graber said. "It's still in the initial stages."
It would be nice to find someone who has something readily available, he said, something on the production line that would be adaptable to his idea. It may not be immediate, he said, but who knows?
"New product development is not an immediate success," said

Jorge Puertas, a press and publicity agent for Invent-Tech. "It takes time."
It could take a few months or several years, he said; there is no way to know.
Graber said he has some ideas for what to call the invention, but naming it will be in the future. "Colored inserts" is just a reference point, he said, a way to know what you're talking about; naming will come down the line.
That will come after finding a manufacturer, Puertas said.
Graber is an independent crop consultant and sprays yards in the summer.
"In the winter, things are slower," he said. "It gives me time to think."
His wife Barbara is a teacher's aide at Central Elementary School. They have lived in Goodland 30 years.
"I feel like a native here," he said. "This is home; I'd like to stay here for good."

Goodland woman rejoins advertising staff at paper

With the new year, Anne Hamilton has rejoined the advertising staff of *The Goodland Star-News*, starting on Tuesday.
Hamilton will be dealing with customers east of Main Avenue north of 17th Street, along Business U.S. 24 and east of K-27 to the south. She will help her customers with their advertising needs and business promotion.
"I'm excited to be back and get reacquainted with my customers," said Hamilton, who worked for the paper from November, 2003 to November, 2004.
Hamilton earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Fort Hays State University with a marketing emphasis in December 2002. She graduated from Wiggins High School in Colorado in 1999 and from Morgan Community College with an associate's degree a year later.
She plans to be married to Pat Selfridge, assistant manager at Wendy's, on April 29.
Since coming to Goodland, Hamilton worked for Cowboy Loop and then a year for *The Star-News*. Then she was manager for Radio Shack and Unicef before returning to the newspaper.
She was born in Salina and lived in Goodland until she was 10, when her family moved to Wiggins. She is the daughter of Brad and Sue Mann of Dighton and the granddaughter of Darrell and Sharon Mann of Goodland. Barry and Joni Guyer and John and Dana Murray all of Goodland are aunts and uncles, and Anne Mann is her great-grandmother.
"My goal is to always do the best

I can in everything, and do it with no regrets," said Hamilton.

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1101 Grand...
\$129,500
This spacious 3000 sq. ft. home boasts quality throughout, with a large open floor plan, this home offers 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, formal living room, kitchen with center island and appliances. Master bedroom offers master bath complete with jacuzzi tub, double sinks and walk in closet. Partial basement offers rec room with wet bar and additional storage. Property has attached single car garage, detached single car garage, large yard and covered patio. Give Cynthia Butts for your showing.

Looking for something in the surrounding areas? Visit my website at www.cynthiabutts.com I cover a large area and may have the home you're looking for.

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