

Prairie fire raced through Sherman, Wallace fields

A large, fierce prairie fire raced through Sherman County and into Wallace County on Monday, Feb. 19, 1906. Dry weather and strong, unpredictable winds are no strangers to northwest Kansas. **The Goodland Republic** gave detailed accounts of the fast-moving fire in two weekly editions. The first appeared on Friday, the 23rd:

A BAD PRAIRIE FIRE Burns a Wide Range, Feed and Barns of Frank Steude

A bad prairie fire was started Monday on the old Hartzler place in Iowa Township. One of Lee Hartzler's boys was cleaning out weeds on his grandmother's place and set fire to some trash, and the fire got away.

The wind was southwesterly, which drove the blaze northeasterly nearly to Edson. The barn, some lumber, wagon, feed, etc., of Frank Steude, living about two miles south of Edson, were burned up.

Toward night, the wind shifted to the north and blew a gale, turning the fire toward the southeast, and driving it into Wallace County, according to report, and was still burning Tuesday morning. The settlers turned out and fought it manfully, but against the fierce north wind they were powerless to check its spreading and advance.

The loss of grass range and feed



marcia smith

• from the vault

is serious, but only one man, Frank Steude, as so far reported, had buildings burned. When a full report is received, without a doubt there will be other serious losses reported.

Mr. Skinner's barn and large barn on the West ranch caught fire, but with heroic effort, the blaze in both cases was extinguished. Part of the pastures of George West, Mr. Skinner, Kipps brothers and Frank Steude were burned. From the appearance of the fire Monday night, stacks and buildings must have burned a long distance southeast of Goodland.

The following week, Friday, March 2, 1906, a detailed account of the destruction caused by the prairie fire, included a warning familiar to today's county residents.

IT WAS A BIG FIRE
Prairie Fire Which Started in This
County Burned Wide Stretch
The prairie fire, which originated

people of this county in the future and should spur them on to take the time and to invest the energy necessary to protect themselves against such fiery incursions, which are so harmful to any country.

This fire, started in Iowa Township in the southeast part of this county, was first carried north in the morning and afterwards south by the change of the wind in the evening.

People fought it heroically, but in spite of every effort, it went south into the northeast part of Wallace County and terminated only when it had reached the Union Pacific tracks at McAllister in the northwest part of Logan County.

The heaviest loss in Wallace County falls upon Albert Robidoux, who lost all his barns, shed, etc., and three hundred tons of prairie hay in the stack. He also lost the grass on several sections of land.

On Peter Robidoux's ranch, the fire swept over twelve sections of land but otherwise did no damage.

The heaviest loss falls upon the W.I. Richards ranch, just over the line in Logan County. This is the ranch formerly owned by Frank Teeters. The fire destroyed several hundred tons of hay and other property on his ranch.

George Jones, who lives near Edson, was in town Tuesday and reported that the fire ran over his farm of 320 acres and burned one of his horses quite severely, the other six he had in his pasture were also singed.

As was reported, Frank Steude, in the same neighborhood, lost almost everything he had that was flammable on his place. Six hundred acres belonging to P.K. Jensen were burned over, and much of Bing Skinnners land was burned.

Residents of our community have a long tradition of generosity to those who have had misfortune in their lives. The following item of appreciation appeared in the same edition:

Frank Steude to His Friends
Frank Steude, the Edson farmer who had the misfortune to lose nearly everything on his farm last Monday in the prairie fire, and for whom his Goodland and Sherman County friends raised a purse to help mitigate the hardship of his loss, wishes to thank all those that

contributed to the Steude fund. Frank is well known by many people and is one of the hard-working, honest men of Sherman County.

Another type of disaster, this in our nation's coal mines, has been in the news lately. The same holds true 100 years ago, but much closer to home:
MINE EXPLOSION KILLS 13
Firedamp in Maitland Shaft at Walsenburg, Colo., Wrecks Property

An explosion in the Maitland coal mine Monday (Feb. 19) caused the death of 13 miners. Open lamps used by the miners are believed to have caused an explosion of gas. The force of the blast shook the earth for miles around and caused a number of drifts to cave in, entombing the men behind them. A majority of the miners are foreigners.

(Note — Firedamp is a harmful gas sometimes found in mines.)

On a much happier note, a family reunion in Goodland with a Colby connection was reported:

MET AFTER FIFTY-FIVE YEARS
Arthur Connelly and Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson, Brother and Sister
Arthur Connelly of Colby was in

Goodland Saturday. He is 72 years of age. The old gentleman noticed in the Goodland papers that his sister, the mother of William Richardson, had arrived here from Iowa.

He has not seen this sister for 55 years — since he was 17 years old. Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson is 111 years older than her brother, Arthur. When he last parted from her, it was at the old home in Indiana, where they were both raised.

They will have many reminiscences to recall and much to talk about. Mr. Connelly is the father of J.R. Connelly, editor of *The Colby Free Press*.

Not all was doom and gloom on the prairie. The following advertised the county's first major social event of 1906.

Masquerade Ball
AT THE OPERA HOUSE
Thursday, February 22, 1906
Arrangements have been made for a Mask Ball on Washington's birthday, Feb. 22, 1906. Masks can be secured at Harry J. Rowe's Jewelry Store.

Ladies admitted free. Gentlemen \$1.00 and Gentlemen in Ladies' costume, \$5.00. Those that are not masked will not be permitted to dance until after the hour to unmask. The only Mask Ball of the Season. Come and enjoy it.

obituaries

Cora Maude Guiou

Cora Maude Guiou (Gunion), 87, Goodland, died Feb. 1, 2006, at Hays Medical Center.

She was born Jan. 9, 1919, in Woodson County, the daughter of James and Mattie (Hockinsmith) Guiou. In 1937, she graduated from high school in Yates Center.

She was a waitress in Wichita, and in 1948, she moved to Denver, where she worked in the tea room at Denver Dry Goods, retiring in 1983. She moved to Goodland in 1995 to be nearer family and friends, including Dave and Mariel Wieggers and Deb and Lance Ihrig, and their sons.

Preceding her in death were her parents, 10 siblings and longtime companion Carter Hale.

Survivors include a sister-in-law, Wilma Guiou of Tulsa.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, 2006, at the Koons Chapel in Goodland with Dr.

Chet Ross officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Faith Weavers Friends, a youth group at the First United Methodist Church in Goodland, in care of the funeral home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735-1555.

Florence Meissinger

Florence V. Meissinger, 72, a Kanorado homemaker, died Sunday, Feb. 19, 2006, at Select Specialty Hospital in Denver.

She was born April 5, 1933, at Scottsbluff, Neb., the daughter of George and Molly (Meyer) Troutd, and attended schools in Greeley, Colo.

On Aug. 5, 1951, she married Edward L. Meissinger in Greeley. The family moved from Colorado



Meissinger

to Sherman County in 1969.

She was a member of the Kanorado United Methodist Church.

Preceding her in death were her parents; a sister, Lillian Johnson; and three brothers, Albert, Raymond and Ruben Troutd.

Survivors include her husband; two daughters, Jeanne (Steve) Mann of McPherson, and Pam (Dirk) Sheldon of Goodland; two sons, Stan (Karla) Meissinger and Doug (Jeanette) Meissinger, both of Goodland; a brother, Clarence (Edna) Troutd of Greeley; two sisters, Mildred (Ed) Dyer of Ault, Colo., and Margie (Tom) Brown of Greeley; a sister-in-law, Ellamae (Ronnie) Brown of Cheyenne, Wyo.; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2006, at the Goodland First Christian Church with the Rev. Ted Amos officiating. Burial will follow in the Goodland Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 1-2 p.m. Wednesday at the church.

Memorials may be made to the Sherman County 4-H Sewing Project or Make It With Wool in care of Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735-1555.

Mildred King

Mildred Frances King, 78, Burlington, a bookkeeper and homemaker, died Monday, Feb. 13, 2006.

She was born Sept. 23, 1927, the daughter of Minnie F. and J. Phillip Morrison in Iowa Park, Texas.

At age 14, she was working at a skating rink when a soldier named V.R. "Bud" King, stationed nearby, asked her for a lesson. A few months later, on Dec. 21, 1942, they married.

One of their grandchildren said, "Watching their lives was like watching the greatest love story ever — and was an honor to witness."

After the war, the couple settled in Burlington, where she helped

him in his many business ventures. Along with bookkeeping for the dray business and auto dealership, she took in ironing and laundry.

The Kings had a son and four daughters, including Phyllis, who died at age 4 in 1951. They also took in 14 foster children.

Mrs. King made time for all her children's and grandchildren's ballgames, concerts and school activities. Seeing any child brought her joy, and she always sought reasons to care for or be around them.

She was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and various community service organizations. She made dozens of quilts and needlework crafts, and her family said she will be remembered for her strength, faith and compassion as a bedside caregiver for many.

The Kings traveled much of the United States in their motor home and enjoyed many winters in Arizona and Texas.

Also preceding her in death were her parents; her husband in 2002; a

brother, Chester Morrison; and a son-in-law, Craig Mann.

Survivors include a son, Dick (Jane) King of Craig, Colo.; three daughters, Sue (Doug) Keirnes and Julie Mann, both of Littleton, Colo., and Debbie (Barry) Hinkhouse of Burlington; a brother, J.D. Morrison of Iowa Park, Texas; two sisters-in-law, Dema Morrison of Iowa Park and Mabel Pickerill of Burlington; 15 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday, Feb. 18, 2006, at the Burlington United Methodist Church with Pastor Jeff Babb officiating. Burial followed in the Fairview Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or the Burlington Veterans of Foreign Wars in care of Equitable Savings and Loan Bank, 1420 Lowell Ave., Burlington, Colo. 80807.

Condolences can be sent to the family at www.lovefuneralhomes.com. Arrangements were made by Love Funeral Home in Burlington.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:
Dec. 30, 2004 — Donna K. Sullivan, \$515 judgment on plea of guilty for driving while suspended, 1st conviction.

May 31, 2005 — Crystal D. Phillips, \$218 fine reinstated for speeding and \$20 fine reinstated for no child restraining systems and seat belts.

June 30 — Michael P. Olivo Jr., \$144 fine reinstated for speeding.

Aug. 23 — Jason Reyes, \$195 fine reinstated for speeding.

Sept. 3 — Thomas C. Young, \$420 for speeding.

Sept. 12 — Derrick R. Goode, \$177 for speeding.

Oct. 7 — Barbara J. Phillips, \$80 for no child restraining systems and seat belts.

Oct. 24 — Taylor B. Lantz, \$126 for speeding.

Nov. 10 — Andres J. DeJesus-Ruiz, \$150 fine reinstated for speeding.

Nov. 11 — Margaret R. Trainer, \$133 for improper parking.

Nov. 21 — Erik L. Mullins, \$300 for speeding.

Nov. 23 — Travis M. Bahnsen, \$120 for speeding.

Nov. 24 — Juan C. Dicuru-Pinto, \$114 for speeding.

Abraham M. Randhal, \$560 for driving while suspended, 2nd conviction and \$30 for speeding.

Nov. 25 — Donald E. Rouse, \$360 for driving while suspended, 1st conviction and \$60 for speeding.

Nov. 26 — Rodney E. Morrill, \$168 for speeding.

Dec. 4 — Kateri J. Mcknight, \$168 for speeding.
Kyle R. Wagner, \$345 for speeding.

Dec. 6 — Casey A. Acevedo, \$120 for speeding.

Michael J. Bozner, \$120 for speeding.

Dec. 8 — Deividas Brazaitis, \$90 for speeding.

Dec. 9 — Gregory D. Allen, \$102 for speeding.

Dec. 14 — Rebecca C. Fleming, \$126 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Dec. 16 — Joshua S. Morales, \$108 for speeding.

Dec. 17 — Dallas E. Fox, \$108 for speeding.

Dec. 18 — John K. Weger, \$222 for speeding.

Dec. 20 — Nicholas A. Adelstein, \$168 for speeding.

Bjorn E. Bergstedt, \$126 for speeding.

Stephen L. Berf, \$118 for over

weight limits on wheels and axles.

Dec. 26 — Randall C. Markarian, \$150 for improper parking.

Dec. 29 — Leah C. Buterbaugh, \$132 for speeding.

Kyle A. Welsh, \$150 for speeding.

Dec. 31 — Scott E. Streller, \$120 for improper parking.

Naisha M. Williams, \$10 for no seat belt.

Jan. 1, 2006 — Junior P. Eiguerua, \$150 for speeding and \$20 for no child restraining systems and seat belts.

Pins on sale!



Special color souvenir pins featuring the giant Vincent van Gogh sunflower painting on the big easel in Goodland are now on sale.

The pins are \$3⁴⁹ each and are available at *The Goodland Star-News* office, 1205 Main. They can be purchased wholesale through the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau office at 890-3515 or 888-824-4222.

Pins are on sale at both Sinclair stations, Knott Just Books, Goodland Regional Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary gift shop, KOA Kampground, Bowmans Heating and Air Conditioning and at The Total Look beauty shop.

The Goodland Star-News

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