

65-cents-per-bushel wheat was growing on \$10 land

The past and future of Northwest Kansas agriculture was regional news even a century ago. Wheat was recognized as the cash crop to beat — 65-cents-per-bushel wheat on \$10 land! *The Goodland Republic* reprinted an article that had first appeared in eastern Nebraska.

SHORTGRASS COUNTRY PASSING Modern Farming Methods are Making Northwestern Kansas

That northwestern Kansas is in the eye of daily newspapers and a multitude of people looking for homes and investment is evidenced by the great amount of publicity it enjoys; one item in the great mass of literature about northwestern Kansas being dated at Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 17, (1906) and printed in the *Kansas City Journal*, as follows:

The short grass country is rapidly diminishing in area. Within three years, the redemption to agriculture of the vast plains of northwestern Kansas will be practically complete.

Ten years ago, there were many houses in this region. Most of them were sod. Few of them were occupied. A short time before, when the eastern money loaner was easier than he is now, men borrowed to the limit and then abandoned the farms they had hastily measured out upon the prairie.

The new breed of settlers is different. They come here from other



marcia smith

• from the vault

parts of the west. They know the climate's vagaries, and they know what the soil will bring forth. That is true they have proved by their garnering of wheat crops upon land that cost them but a third of the value of what it raises.

There are sod houses left, but they are mostly vacant. They mark the going settler, not the man who has arrived. In their stead are frame structures.

The experiment station agriculturists and the farmers of northwestern Kansas have combined in the work of redemption. The former discovered what could be best raised in this section, and the latter has followed his directions.

Wheat, corn, barley, oats, alfalfa and kaffir corn are the principal products nowadays. When a man can raise 25 to 30 bushels of 65¢ wheat on \$10 land, he is doing really well. There is so much profit in raising wheat at the current prices on the cheap land of that section that the farmers look upon the building of granaries as an unnecessary expense and jeer at the man who suggests holding for better prices.

The farmer of northwestern Kan-

sas is not inclined to be satisfied with the modest acres of his eastern colleagues. The thing that impresses visitors most is the great number of acres that one man tends, or rather attempts to manage.

The cheapness of the land tempted the cupidity of the first-comers, and the productiveness of the soil incited them to take in as much land as they could see. Not an uncommon sight in this section is to see a man and a boy or two men farming a half section of 320 acres.

The man who doesn't tend at least a half section is rather looked down upon as a one-horse farmer. The real farmer cares not so much for the yield per acre as for the yield per farm.

The size of the implements in use are proportioned to the area of the farms, and nothing that does not require four horses to operate it is considered worth buying.

Corn is somewhat of a stranger to this section, but the persevering farmers have discovered the secret of productivity. The ground is easily kept clean, and often but one plowing is all that it gets. The stalk does not grow as tall as in the eastern part of the state, but it contains as many ears and as many bushels to the acre. (The rest of the article

is unreadable.)

The previous article talked about the price of land in Sherman County in 1906. An advertisement in the same paper, dated Feb. 23, offered the following:

Sherman County Land For Sale

List of Sherman County land for sale, with prices subject to change of prior sale, without notice. Terms on time, one-half cash, balance in one, two and three years, at 7 percent. (Prices listed for quarter sections are cash prices. A few examples are given below:)

NE 1/4 11-6-42 \$700
SW 1/4 6-6-40 \$600
SW 1/4 18-9-38 \$1,600
NW 1/4 31-6-40 \$900

Apply to: Leonard Everett, 18 Pearl Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Of course wheat wasn't the only thing selling at a good price then. But with all the ham and bacon, one had to have eggs (or chickens first?) too.

Fat Hogs

R.L. Peters brought 20 fat hogs to town (Goodland) Tuesday. Some of the bunch were shoats, but the 20 averaged 284 pounds each. Ben Jayne, the weigher, said it was the heaviest bunch he had ever weighed. The lot brought the lump sum of \$284.

Eggs for Sale

Eggs from thoroughbred Light Brama chickens, 50¢ per setting of

13 eggs. Call at southwest 33-6-39, or address me at Goodland, Kan., D.D. Parker.

Buff Leghorns

The kind mother used to raise. Eggs for hatching, 5¢ apiece; a setting or two of these eggs and then you can sit by the fire and smoke your pipe of clay. C.E. Biddison.

A familiar name in this community was in the news, more than likely a bittersweet move for the gentleman:

Leaves for Arkansas This Week

E.N. Finley, for 20 years a resident of Sherman County, left this week for Hardy, Sharp County, Ark., near which town he has purchased a 200-acre farm, 65 acres being bottom land. He said he was going to keep his Sherman County farm, which lies two miles from Brewster, in case he would want to come back to a "good country."

Mrs Jane Finley, his mother, will follow him to the new home in a few weeks. Mr. Finley's wife died about two years ago, and hence his mother will keep house for him. His three little boys will remain with their uncle, J.J. Finley, of Brewster.

Sherman County rural schools were also newsworthy. An article written by the superintendent gives insight to the activities of some of the school districts:

Educational Notes

School district No. 24 has just fin-

ished a new frame school building. It cost about \$600. Miss Mary Johnson began a four-months' term as teacher last Monday.

Miss Jeannie Cuthbertson finished her school in district No. 47 last Friday. Miss Cuthbertson is making a grand success as a teacher. G.L. Brokaw of Dresden is teaching in district No. 85. Mr. Brokaw is a lawyer by profession.

Miss Nellie Marks and Miss Hazel Odell, teachers of the Kanarado school, gave a social for their pupils last Friday evening.

Social news "short takes" of 1906 continued to appear in the popular column, sometimes without much explanation:

TOLD IN A LINE

J.R. Burrow, secretary of state; George W. Wheatly, railroad commissioner; W.H. Haskell, warden of the state penitentiary; E.E. Ames, national bank examiner and president of the First National Bank of Goodland; and Charles Sessions, reporter for the *Kansas City Journal*, came up to Goodland on No. 41 (Rock Island) Wednesday evening and returned east on No. 10 at 8 o'clock.

Jacob Lemmer is having a residence built in the east part of town. The dimensions are 34x45, and the building will have five rooms besides bathroom, pantry and two closets. C.W. Hodgen is building the house, the contract price being \$1,350.

Artist teaches watercolor



Elwyn Vatcher, a Goodland artist, was on hand at the Carnegie Arts Center last week to demonstrate his watercolor techniques. He painted when he didn't have any visitors, including a couple of paintings of the Grand Canyon and another landscape, and took a look at work by future artists in the Elementary Art display. He said he sold some of his paintings there and has paintings for sale at the state travel information center on I-70 west of Goodland.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

Jan. 29 — Ronald F. Lake, \$205 for over weight limits on wheels and axles.

Chance R. Roth, \$126 for speeding.

Kinsey M. Stiffler, \$132 for speeding.

Jan. 30 — Jelani L. Jenkins, \$360 for driving while suspended, 1st

conviction.

Teresa J. Schaal, \$120 for speeding.

Jan. 31 — Humberto Aquirre Jr., \$111 for unlawful acts with vehicle.

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ATTENTION GOODLAND, KS RESIDENTS!

We will soon be conducting a mail canvass of Goodland, KS to compile information for your new 2006 City Directory. Your cooperation in answering the questionnaire will be greatly appreciated and will help make the Directory accurate and complete.

Due to the State & National DO NOT CALL list for telemarketers, residents who have put their names on these lists cannot be contacted. To insure a complete updated directory, we will be updating everyone's listings through the US Postal Service. So watch for your letter in the mail. It is important that you check your listing and return to us any corrections or if you would like to purchase a City Directory.

If you did not receive your letter because of an incorrect address, or would like to purchase one, please call...1-800-374-4691 press 2, Mon. thru Thurs. 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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