

Railroad proposed under the Bering Strait to Siberia

A century ago, one international news item in *The Goodland Republic* had a feel of Jules Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." The spirit of adventure was ever present, whether on the prairies or overseas.



marcia smith

• from the vault

RAILROAD UNDER THE SEA

Project to Unite Europe and United States by Sea

St. Petersburg, Russia, March 10 — A more favorable attitude is being taken here toward the dazzling scheme for a tunnel under the Bering Strait and all-rail route from the United States to Europe.

Baron Loicq De Lobel, representing the American Trans-Alaskan Siberian company, has made considerable progress toward securing a concession from Russia.

Wanting closer commercial relations between the United States and Russia, this project appears as a method to accomplish this end and also to develop the resources of Siberia.

The company, which believes the Siberian side is as rich in gold as the Alaskan side, offers to construct the tunnel and build a road 3,000 miles in length from East Cape to Karsk, where it will join the Siberian railway on condition that alternate section of eight miles on either side of

the line, along with mining concessions, be granted the company.

On the national scene, the newspaper an-

nounced the passing of two prominent Americans.

MISS ANTHONY IS DEAD

Rochester, N.Y., March 13 — The long and eventful life of Susan B. Anthony came to the end peacefully. (Born in 1820, Miss Anthony was an American leader of the suffragist movement.) Her attending physician said Miss Anthony died of heart failure induced by double pneumonia.

GENERAL SCHOFIELD DIES

The Last Civil War Commander

St. Augustine, Fla. — Lieutenant General John M. Schofield, retired and former head of the army, died after a cerebral hemorrhage. He was the last surviving army commander during the Civil War.

(Born in New York in 1831, General Schofield attended West point and graduated with McPherson, Sheridan, Terrill, Tyler and the Confederate Hood. He returned to be an assistant professor of philosophy.)

In the Civil War in 1862, he was made a major general. He cooperated with Grant at Vicksburg and Sherman at Goldsboro, when Johnson surrendered. Later he was secretary of war under Andrew Johnson and Grant.

On the death of Sheridan in 1888, he was assigned by President

Cleveland to command the army of the United States. General Schofield retired in 1895 but acted as President McKinley's confidential advisor during the war with Spain.

Child of Andrew Kaiser Dead

The five-year-old son of Andrew Kaiser, who lives about 15 miles northwest of Goodland, died last Thursday as a result of whooping cough. The lad was sick only three or four days. The funeral was held Sunday from the home and interment was made in the Grant township cemetery.

"Told in a Line," the social column of the community, provided an interesting insight to activities 100 years ago:

The old-fashioned taffy pull at the Methodist church Tuesday evening went on record as a good time for the young folks. They pulled taffy and ate popcorn balls and applied the taffy also to their exterior. It was a case of taffy inside and taffy outside. The high school girls sang a number of songs. The receipts of the entertainment amounted to \$18. The new carpet will be put down this week and the seats arranged for services Sunday.

Gladys Koontz entertained 10 little girl friends Tuesday afternoon in honor of her seventh birthday. The little hostess was presented with a number of birthday remembrances. In attendance were Marie Oakford, Marie Tapper, Bessie Hoopes, Ethel Wheat, Thresa Rice, Edith Stout, Marian Johnson and Irene McCants.

'Secret Shopper' check a scam; sending money out of country risky

Dear Attorney General Kline: I recently received a letter which offered me the chance to be a part of a "Secret Shopper" program. But I also received a check for several thousand dollars with instructions on how to cash it and then send that money to an address in Canada. I'm sending this information to you because I just know this is a scam.



phill kline

• attorney general

Dear Kansas Consumer: First of all, I'd like to thank you for bringing this issue to my attention and the attention of my Consumer Protection Division. My office receives information on literally thousands of foreign-generated frauds directed toward Kansans on a daily basis, but we had not yet viewed this particular scam.

The information concerning this particular program does have several warning signs. The actual letter from the "Western Prudential Investment Group Corporation" is quite official-looking, with a return address in Montreal, Quebec.

The letter is very congratulatory in nature to start and includes logos from several well-known companies but then spells out a "probation training assignment" which must be completed within 48 hours.

It is at that point that the letter emphasizes that this assignment

will only take two hours and that it is paid training, at the rate of \$200 per hour. The supposed objective is to "evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of a payment system called 'MoneyGram.'"

The scam then becomes readily identifiable because the instructions then call for you to "pose as a potential customer" by sending an actual money payment to a supposed relative of yours now living in Newfoundland, Canada.

You are told to deposit the check — drawn on a well-known national financial institution — for nearly \$4,000 into your personal account, withdraw that amount the following

day and send the "MoneyGram."

After sending the money, you are then instructed to contact the company to verify that the money has actually been sent.

The tone of the letter then changes, reminding you to "note the quality of service provided," which should be listed on the official return form, and to be sure to return your weekly time sheet.

One final reminder is to "Have fun!" Had you not recognized that this effort was an elaborate ruse designed to bilk you out of several thousand dollars, the only "fun" would have been had by those scam artists with a Canadian address.

No doubt there are "secret shopper" programs that are legitimate, but you should always investigate

these companies. When confronted by business offers like this, remember that if something seems just too good to be true, it probably is.

The hallmark of this type of scam is the wiring of money immediately. The wire service offers the con artist anonymity, and the immediacy is so that you do not find out the bogus check bounced until after your own money is wired out of the country. Any business venture that asks you to wire money is a likely scam.

Once again, congratulations on being a good consumer and recog-

nizing this as a scam.

Attorney General Phill Kline offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints or questions.

For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., Second Floor, Topeka, Kan. 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, (800) 432-2310.

Colby College announces president candidates

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College trustees named two finalists for the school's presidency during their regular meeting Thursday.

Clayton Tatro and Dr. Lynn Kreider will be interviewed during campus visits April 5-6, the board said.

According to a release from the college, Tatro has been dean of learning services and chief academic officer at Garden Community College since 2001.

Kreider is the first chief executive officer and chancellor of Louisiana Delta Community College in West Monroe, La.

Dean of fiscal affairs Dan Erbert said a public forum will be held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, with Kreider and another at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 6, with Tatro. The board is asking radio announcer Rich Epp to moderate both sessions.

The board will also hold special meetings and have dinner with both candidates and their spouses during the two days.

Also on the agenda was the possibility of putting up a new dorm.

Interim President Skip Sharp said he wanted the board's consensus on the issue, asking for the go-ahead to get drawings and cost estimates.

Sharp said the ideal choice for replacement would be the north dorm, replacing it with a three-story traditional dorm.

"We need to keep the dorm functioning while building a new one," he said. "We need to finish off that part of the campus."

He suggested a fall, 2007 completion date.

Sharp also proposed building a Wellness Center nearby, where it and the new student living quarters

could take advantage of available parking.

Board member Kenton Krehbiel asked how the dorm would be financed.

Sharp said it could be done with bonds, which wouldn't need to be put to a vote. Krehbiel said he liked the idea and wanted to see more.

Sharp suggested new freshmen and scholarship athletes could be required to live on campus, guaranteeing a certain amount of residents for a new facility.

Board member Larry McDonald said students would probably want to live in a new dorm anyway.

Cleona Flipse, another board member, agreed, and saying conditions of the old dorms have been an issue.

"The dorms have been a big complaint," she said.

Dean of Instruction Chris Bishop said they have permission from the state to increase enrollment in the licensed practical nurse program this fall from 20 to 30 students.

Bishop said the summer class schedule has been printed, and the fall listing will go to press soon. They're also making progress on the 2006-2008 college catalog, she said.

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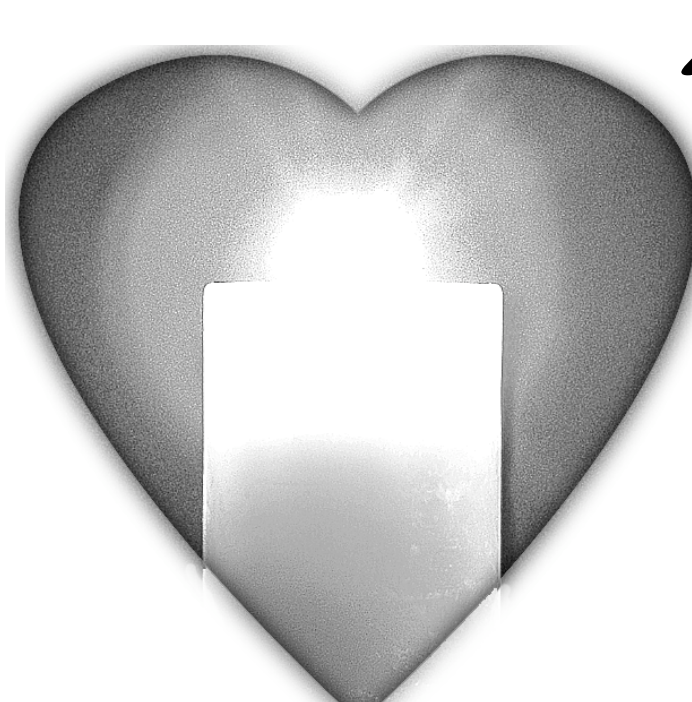
matters of record

Real Estate

The following real estate transactions were reported by the Sherman County Register of Deeds:

Susan D. Doke and Fritz M. Doke and Roxann Kling and Rodney J. Kling quitclaim to BOCK LLC, Sherman County, Kan., Lot 10, Block 59, Original Town of Goodland.

Trent E. Blythe and Sharon K. Blythe to Susan D. Doke and Fritz M. Doke, an undivided 1/2 interest Lot 10, Block 59, Original Town of Goodland.



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