Kids retell stories from family farm

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News A couple of grown children who wanted to save the stories their mother told them from her childhood has put them down in a new book about the life of a prairie farm family in the early 20th century.

The book is called "As I Remember It," told by Esther Imhof and compiled by Ray Imhof and Doris M. Johnson, two of her four children.

The authors will be talking about the book at the Goodland Senior Center, 208 W. 15th, from noon to l p.m. Wednesday.

The book, published by Trafford, and will be for sale at the center and the authors will sign it. It can be ordered online at trafford.com for \$19.95.

"My goal is to encourage other people to record their history," said Ray Imhof, who says he has a passion for genealogy and local history. "Write it down, no matter how trivial you think it might be.

"A big lesson is to label photographs. We have an impressive collection of old photographs and 95 percent of them are unidentifiable. It's a real shame."

He said his mother was born in June 1914 on the family's home



was born with a crooked leg, which her paternal grandmother splinted every day for a year so it would grow straight. She was 18 months old before she walked.

One of her earliest memories was as a toddler during World War I.

"Her parents were reading in the paper about Kaiser Wilhelm," Johnson said. "She knew that wasn't good, so she threw the paper on the floor and stamped on it."

Before she was 5, her parents moved to a farm near Brewster. Esther Imhof remembered having a farm sale, packing their belongings into wood barrels and putting them in a railroad car to go to Brewster in March 1920. Her father was good with mechanical things, and when place near Guide Rock, Neb. She he moved to Brewster, his farming



Johnson **Ray Imhof**

was not done with horses but machinery.

Her parents were careful with their money and invested in the farm before finishing their house, she recalled. She talks of threshing wheat, butchering, raising chickens and eggs, and school.

'There were stories I'd heard her tell my children, and they were fascinated," said Johnson. "She'd tell about how she was bit by a rattlesnake when she was 10 or 11... and it seems like they never got tired of hearing about it. So we thought other people might be interested, too.'

Mrs. Imhof talked of her love of school and her disappointment in not graduating. She had the flu and missed around three months of school her final year, the 12th grade. She talks of dating and skipping school.

When they were freshmen, the

book says, the girls got together after physical education, and they decided they would skip school and take a sneak hike. One girl said she could get a driver and a truck. Another said she could get her mother to make refreshments and another said she could bring her ukulele.

She said they thought they would go to the Indian Mounds and dance the Charleston all afternoon. The girls had learned the dance in gym class. They got back late and missed the school bus. Her mother and father weren't mad, though; they thought it was funny.

Imhof said his mother agreed to write down her memories in the early 1980s. Her children tried to make it easier for her with a cassette recorder.

'The technology was a bit much for her," Ray Imhof said. "She'd write a script and then read it to the tape recorder.'

Once the memories were recorded, Johnson and her brother had to organize it, edit it, doublecheck the historical references and search for anything connected to the story

Ray Imhof, who lives in Brewster, is a retired salesman of farm supplies. Johnson, a retired teacher, lives in Burlington, Kan. Neither had written a book before.

More power planned for racing pit area

COUNTY, from Page 1

in town, purchased property for a modular home, Rasure said, but did not know about having the application in before the work began. His application is for an addition to the house that will qualify. The second was from Greg Nemecheck for remodeling at his house.

• Approved a resolution for the sheriff to allow work release for prisoners and set the fee at \$10 per day. Sheriff Kevin Butts said this should have been put in place several years ago, but the resolution 1931." She said the cost was \$85 makes official what has been for the plaque. done. He said they do not have many requests for work release, but he has one prisoner now who is from Wallace County. Butts said the \$10 has to be paid in advance before the prisoner can go to work. He said the work release has to be applied for by the defense attorney and approved by the judge.

• Approved having a historical plaque made and brochures printed as part of the Sherman County Historical Society's historic building project. Dave

Branda, society president, and Millie Wright spoke to the commissioners about the project.

Wright said she had researched the history of the county courthouse, and the information would be in a brochure the county could hand out. Branda said downtown business buildings have plaques as part of the project, and they would like to ask the county about doing one for the courthouse. Wright showed the commissioners the design of the plaque, which would say "Sherman County Courthouse built

Tiede and Thomas said it sounded like a good deal, and once it is done they will find a place out front to put it up. Rasure did not participate in the decision because of a conflict of interest, as his wife is a historical society board member.

• Approved mid-month bills totaling \$51,543, and OK'd addition of the fuel bills and others that might show by Friday. Those will be reviewed by Rasure before the checks are signed.

County sheriff may help citizens purchase state park permits through Internet

PERMIT, from Page 1

because he could not buy a state park permit at the clerk's office, and had to go to Colby.

"I want to know why Sherman County sends people to other counties for business," Lalicker said.

Rumpel said she decided last year it would not pay get new equipment to sell the park permits. She said the state has a new machine to issue the permits, but it would cost \$100 to

County.

"I looked at what we had sold," Rumpel said. "We sold 35 last year out they are not selling them. and 36 the year before. We get \$1 for every park permit we sell.'

She said the new machine would not issue the actual permit, but rather a temporary permit which had to be converted at a state park. "The state told me that our county did not sell enough to warrant the

new machine that issues the actual

put the cheapest one in Sherman permit," Rumpel said. "I thought for the county to do this business," we were OK because Wal-Mart was selling the park permits, but I found

> "The state told me they plan is to have Wal-Mart selling the permits by the end of the year. Even if they did sell the permits, they would not sell senior, disabled or second-vehicle permits. That is another thing the state hopes to have solved by the end of the year."

"The state is making it difficult

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said. Lalicker asked why it just seemed to be Sherman County.

Rasure said it was not just Sherman County, but there are several others in northwest Kansas who have stopped selling the park permits.

"I don't think it is right that I have to go to another county," Lalicker said.

Rumpel said her husband had

gotten them an annual permit off the office and they would go on the In-Internet, but it was a temporary to be converted at a state park.

Lalicker said he got the actual permits from Colby.

Rasure asked Butts if it was something his office could do, because his office has the Internet capability.

"I don't want to go on the Internet," Lalicker said. "I would rather do it here than drive 35 miles.'

"You would go to the sheriff's

ternet and help you," Rasure said.

"I went to Colby because the fee jumped by \$10 on April 1," Lalicker said. "I don't like having to go to another county to do business."

Rasure asked Sheriff Butts and Rumpel to look into how the sheriff's office could help people handle permits.



Your KEY to business success.

Have your name up front when a customer needs you.



Combined rates are

Repetitive advertising is the key to opening the door to new customers.

available to feature your services in the Star-News and The Country Advocate.



Jeff Dreiling - Sales (785) 443-0819



785-899-2338