

# Newspaper printed settlement stories of pioneers

In the spring of 1931, *The Goodland News-Republic* published articles about the construction of the current Sherman County courthouse and the ceremony for laying its cornerstone.

The newspaper requested personal comments or family recollections from pioneers who had lived in the 40 years or more. These were printed in the May 6, 1931, edition. Readers were treated to interesting glimpses into the lives of those pioneers of old land to settlers in the new territories of the 1880s.

## VOLUMES COULD BE WRITTEN Individuals Tell Brief Early Day History

Mrs. Etta Calvert, who came to Norton in 1883, and later to this county, is the granddaughter of Wm. Allen, the man who secured the passage of the homestead bill in congress, authorizing the granting of old land to settlers in the new territories of the west.

Mrs. Jane Cullins, who came from Illinois in the fall of 1885, is 91 years old, being now one of the oldest people in the county as well as one of the longest residents. Five of her children who came with her reside in the county are included on the roll of pioneers (placed in the



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- from the vault

court house cornerstone). A son J.D. Cullins, who came on June 12th, 1885, first lived in a tent at the town site called Bennett, which was a half mile north and a half west of the later town of Eustis.

Mr. and Mrs. June Parker came to the county in 1886 and homesteaded in section 34-10-40, which is still the old home place. They arrived in Wallace with a few pieces of furniture and a large bundle of willow sticks which they would use to establish their timber claim. Jote Parker and Willa Mather, a son and daughter, came to the county with them and they still live here.

**Recounts Union Pacific Vote**  
Sam Warden, who came in Nov. 1887, remembers when bonds were voted for the Rock Island. He also recalled when an election was held for voting bonds for the Union Pacific, which was grading west from Colby, but the proposition was

turned down by the Sherman County voters. J.W. Germann, Kanorado merchant, was in the influx of settlers in 1886. They filed on a homestead at the land office at Oberlin and drove out in a covered wagon with a cow tied behind. They built a sod house and moved in on the 15th day of April.

Henry Frerichs homesteaded five miles southeast of Goodland in 1886 and moved his family in the spring of 1887, coming from Illinois. Heye Frerichs lives on the old home place.

**Mrs. Gulick From Vermont**  
Mrs. A.C. Gulick came from Phillipsburg in 1891, having only recently come there from Morgan Center, Vt. She was Elen Myra Morse before her marriage to Dr. Gulick. She moved here to make her home with Mr. and Mrs. E.C. Wiley, who had come a few months earlier.

Kyle F. Mann came in 1886 with his parents from Humbolt, Neb. Mrs. Mann, who was Carrie McDaniel, came the same year with her parents. The Manns became ac-

quainted and married here.

F.L. Blystone filed on his claim April 2, 1886, and walked from the Oberlin land office to Sherman County to locate the claim, around which he threw up sod, then walked to Wallace. He returned the first of September, driving a yoke of oxen from Ellis. He went back to Meadville, Pa., and was married to Mary H. Scholsser on May 29, 1887, and they arrived at their home here on the Fourth of July that year.

**County Records Taken to Store**  
Jess Thorsen came with his parents from Ottawa, Ill., in 1886. His father had the first grocery and general store in Goodland, hauling supplies from Wallace. The store was located where the *News-Republic* office is now. When the county records were "stolen" from Eustis and brought to Goodland, they were put in Thorsen's store.

Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Chatfield came from Nebraska 45 years ago (from 1931), and homesteaded west

of Goodland where their son Ed Chatfield now lives. Ed is a native son, having been born here.

**First Child Born in County**  
Mr. and Mrs. S.F. Bradbury were a part of the big migration to the county in 1886. According to the old *Goodland Dark Horse*, early day newspaper, their daughter Maud was the first child born in the county. She is now Mrs. Maud Siders of Pasadena, Calif. She was born in July 1886.

(However an account from another family claimed the same notoriety.) Mrs. Artie Melstrom-Franklin was the first white child born in the county, as nearly as records can establish. She was born Feb. 25, 1883. Her husband, Garfield Franklin, is also one of the early settlers coming with his parents from Champaign, Ill., on March 9, 1887.

**Ground Squirrels Like Sod School**

Charles Hartley came in 1886 with his parents, who lived on the

north county line. He remembers that a man named Craig gave 10 acres of land and everyone in the community helped build a sod building on it which served for a school, church and community gathering place. There was no floor, and Mr. Hartley says the ground squirrels used to dig through the walls and would come in the school house and pick up crumbs the children dropped from their lunches. Mrs. Hartley, who was Lena Freeland, also came to the county in 1886. Her father, Jim Freeland, was a carpenter and helped to construct the old courthouse that is now being replaced.

Simon Kemp came here in March 1886, and at that time, there were only two houses on the road between Goodland and his place about 25 miles northwest of Goodland. Within a few months, there was a house on almost every quarter of land. Arthur Kemp came here with his parents. Warren Kemp was born here.

# Kansas streets are getting safer

The primary responsibility of government is to provide for the protection of its citizens, particularly our most vulnerable Kansans, and I'm proud to say we have made real progress this year in making our streets and neighborhoods safer.

Last year, the Legislature and I teamed up to pass a law making it harder for meth makers to get the ingredients needed for this deadly drug. That was a real victory for Kansas because we've seen the number of meth labs in our state cut by nearly half.

This year, our focus is on stopping those criminals who perpetrate some of the most horrible crimes imaginable: sex offenses, particularly against children.

Starting in 2003, and again in my State of the State address in January, I called on the Legislature to



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- governor

increase penalties for these dangerous criminals. I also proposed a measure to provide law enforcement officers with new tools to track the movements of repeat offenders who have served their prison time.

This week, the Legislature passed a bill known as Jessica's Law, which cracks down on criminals who prey on children by imposing tougher, longer prison sentences.

First time offenders, for example, will receive a minimum 25-year prison sentence, with penalties increasing to the point that third-time offenders will never have another chance to harm a child, since they'll

spend the rest of their lives in prison with no possibility of parole.

These new sentences are complimented by my proposal, now law, to use electronic tracking devices to keep track of the movements of second-time child sex offenders who are released into communities. This was a priority for me because it gives law enforcement officers a new tool to protect Kansans children.

At the same time as we're protecting children, action is being taken to protect other vulnerable Kansans from abuse. A new investigative unit in the attorney general's office will be formed to investigate and prosecute cases of abuse against disabled Kansans. That's another step forward in our efforts to protect vulnerable Kansans.

These actions are all designed to make Kansans safer, and I applaud the cooperation that went into making these protections a reality

# Are 'cures' advertised in e-mail safe?

*Dear Attorney General Kline: I have some long-term health issues on which my doctor and I are now concentrating. I recently received several e-mail messages offering various health care products and supplements. Based on the advertising, they seem to be products that might help me, but I'm still a little leery.*

Dear Kansas Consumer:  
You are absolutely right to be concerned about products like the ones you described. Above all else, consult with your health care provider before you take any additional medications or diet supplements outside your ongoing treatment.

There's no question that health fraud is a business that sells false hope to many consumers. Billions of dollars are spent nationwide on unproved, fraudulently marketed, and at times, useless health care products, often to victims of disfigurements that unfortunately have no medical cures.

In addition, many of these advertisements are directed toward those who seek short-cuts to weight loss or personal appearance improvements.

I've mentioned this phrase in previous Consumer Corner columns, and it is appropriate once again: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Here are a few tips on spotting false claims:

- A product is advertised as an effective and quick cure-all for several different ailments.



## phill kline

- attorney general

ample, there are herbal and "natural" supplements that could negatively interact with other medicines. Keep in mind that poison ivy is natural, so a product labeled as being "natural" is not a guarantee of safety or effectiveness.

If you would like to report a company you think may be making false advertising claims, you can contact my Consumer Protection Division at (800) 432-2310 or the Federal Trade Commission at (877) 382-4357.

It's relatively easy to be taken in by the promises spelled out by the promoters of these products. Just remember that a healthy dose of skepticism may be the best prescription for you.

*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.*

known vehicle apparently lost control, went over the curb and rod the brakes sliding into the building. The car backed out and left the scene.

### Goodland Police

The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

**May 2** — 2:06 p.m., 211 E. 11th, John Bateman reported a theft from his building.

5:19 p.m., 1302 Caldwell, Marshall Hoppe reported damage to property. Tires were slashed with a value of \$280.

6:12 p.m., 204 W. 11th, Shasta Olsen reported a theft of property. 10:26 p.m., 50 Caldwell, arrested

Kiran Khan on a warrant. Case referred to county attorney.

**May 3** — 11:05 a.m., 1029, E. 10th, child in need of care. Case referred to county attorney..

6:37 p.m., 1304 Texas, Ronald Skinner reported two slashed tired valued at \$500.

**May 4** — 9:29 a.m., 1319 Cherry, repot of a juvenile runaway. Case referred to county attorney.

11:23, 1006 Center, arrested Clarence Joseph Shinette on a warrant. Case referred to Ellis County.

**May 6** — 7:24 p.m., 1407 Walnut, arrested Brian Keith Scott on criminal trespass and pedestrian under the influence. Case referred to city attorney.



Winking in the dark is like not advertising your business.

Only You know what you are doing.

“Learning how to respond to and master the process of change - and even to excel at it - is a critical leadership skill for the 21st century. Constant, rapid change will be a fact of life for all of us.”

Jennifer James

The Goodland Star-News

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