

Citizens asked mayor to resume sounding fire alarm

In 1931, the residents of Goodland appealed to the mayor to resume the sounding of some kind of fire alarm. The practice had been abandoned at some point because too many citizens wanted to see the fire and got in the way. Apparently their request was heard, as was reported in *The Goodland News-Republic*.

TO BLOW WHISTLE City Will Resort to Old Custom of Letting Public Know

Considering the public demand for a fire whistle to notify everyone when there is a fire, the mayor and the city council last night decided to arrange to have a suitable signal given to herald the event of a fire.

There has been a good deal of complaint, Mayor Steever said, because there is no fire alarm, so a plan is being worked out. The whistle at the roundhouse will be sounded at night when there is a fire. The alarm



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• from the vault

will not be given for fires happening during the day.

It is probable that distinctive signals will be worked out so that the alarm will indicate in which ward the fire is located, but that detail had not yet been arranged today, as such whistles must be arranged so as not to conflict with the signal the railroad has for its own purposes.

When the alarm sounds, cars should immediately pull up to the curb and park until the fire truck has passed, Mayor Steever said, so that the department will not be handicapped in getting to the fire. Pedes-

trians should also refrain from crossing the street or intersections until the fire fighting equipment has passed.

The reason for discontinuing the blowing of the whistle was that too many people tried to beat the department to the fire and got in the way, thus handicapping the work of putting out the fire.

The city also made another major change to downtown 75 years ago. Parking spaces had to be marked on Main Street to make the area more efficient for shoppers.

MORE PARKING ROOM City's Activity Helping Outside Customers

Recent moves of the city to have parking spaces marked and to keep

trucks from parking on Main Street have had a beneficial effect in making additional parking space available for people who come to Goodland to trade.

The big trucks take up enough room for several cars to occupy, and having them park on the side streets and discharge their freight from the alleys, makes it possible for more cars to find places along Main Street in the business district.

Since parking signs have been painted, a good many more cars are parked in a block. Before the marks were put on, many drivers parked in the middle of a place that was big enough for two, and the result would be a lot of spaces along the street not quite large enough for a car to park in.

When there are crowds of shoppers in town, it is a great convenience for them to be able to park close to the stores where they want to trade, and they appreciate it if they can do so and are more apt to come back again.

Our city has many churches today; one of them was just getting its

start in the summer of 1931. TO ORGANIZE CHURCH Baptists Plan Special Meeting Nest Sunday

The Rev. J.T. Crawford of Kansas City will be here Sunday and will preach at 11 o'clock at the tent on west 11th Street where revival services have been going on the past two weeks.

At the morning service, steps will be taken to fully effect the organization of a Baptist church. A basket dinner will be served at the noon hour.

Baseball was a favorite summer time activity in Sherman County 75 years ago. Several area adult teams played in the Wheat Belt League. WIN FROM EDSON Catholics Win, While Brewster Back in Lead

The Catholic parish baseball team registered another victory in the Wheat Belt League Sunday by beating Edson at home 13 to 8. On account of the air circus in Goodland, the Levant game with the Woodmen scheduled here was not played.

Brewster went back into the league leadership in the see-saw race with Kanorado, winning from Kanorado 5 to 1 at home.

Next Sunday, Brewster plays at Levant, Edson at Kanorado and the two Goodland teams scrap each other on the home grounds.

The standing of the clubs now is: Brewster — 8 wins, 1 loss; Kanorado — 8 wins, 2 losses; Modern Woodmen (Goodland) — 4 wins, 5 losses; Edson and Levant, both — 3 wins, 6 losses; and Catholic Parish (Goodland) — 2 wins, 8 losses.

Other area news items appeared in the "Local News" column:

W.B. Lattin of Portis was in our vicinity Monday looking about his wheat that was then beginning to ripen. It is now dead ripe and should be harvested. Mr. Lattin farms the five quarters formerly owned by Thompson Motor Co. northwest of Goodland.

A large crowd attended a Farmers' Union banquet given by union members of Brewster Tuesday evening. Twenty gallons of ice cream were served.

Sweepstakes with fees a scam

Dear Attorney General Kline: My wife and I recently received a letter congratulating us for being the winner of a \$1 million sweepstakes award from the Global Savings and Credit Union based in New York City. We also received a check for about \$6,500 to help us pay various fees and were instructed to wire 60 percent of that amount to Lloyds of London to insure the check. I'm very skeptical about this because it seems like a scam.

Dear Kansas Consumer: Congratulations on realizing this notification you received is indeed a scam. This particular scam is nothing more than an attempt to separate recipients from their hard-earned cash by causing them to believe they have won large sums of money. But the reality is this sweepstakes or lottery does not exist.

When it comes to lottery or sweepstakes scams like this, at some point in the process before the alleged "winnings" are actually delivered, the target of the scam is required to pay a variety of up-front fees to "process" the fictitious winnings. These fees can vary greatly in amount, but there is one thing that they all have in common: once the money is sent, it is gone and will not be recovered.

Unfortunately, the scam may not be over at this point. Consumers who have paid these fees by per-



phill kline

• attorney general

sonal check or credit card have later been shocked to discover that bogus charges and even identity theft can be the true end result, sometimes even months later.

The people who operate these types of scams are criminals, and stealing credit card account information is icing on the cake to them.

This type of lottery or sweepstakes scam has many varieties, including the International Lottery, the Australian Lottery, the Canadian Lottery, El Gordo Lottery, the Nigerian Lottery and many others too numerous to list here. Keep in mind — the only way to win once you receive these solicitations is to throw them away or delete them from your computer.

Here are some important tips to remember:

- By all means, do not pay any taxes or fees. Legitimate sweepstakes and lotteries may withhold a portion of your winnings for taxes, but they will never charge a fee up front.

- Do not give your credit card or bank account number to a caller you

do not know.

- Be wary of callers requesting money to be sent via wire service or overnight courier — this is a quick, easy and anonymous way for scam artists to get the money and run, as well as avoid mail fraud.

- The only legal lottery a consumer may participate in, within the state of Kansas, is the state-run Kansas Lottery.

It is also a good idea for you to pass this information along to your family and friends, especially elderly citizens who could possibly be scammed out of thousands of dollars very quickly. Finally, remember this old adage: "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

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.

Dark heads in wheat caused by drought

Dark heads were found in wheat in our area this year, especially in areas that were under drought stress, and not in all fields.

The dark heads often appear scattered throughout a field and not necessarily in any pattern.

In most cases, the dark heads appear to be a physiological response to the extreme stress this year from drought, combined with stress from early periods of unusually high heat and wheat streak mosaic disease, say Jim Shroyer and Alan Fritz, Kansas State University extension agronomy leader and Kansas State wheat breeder.

Under stress, the wheat plants fill the kernels in the main tillers and abandon other tillers that may have formed. If these tillers were aborted early enough, they would not have developed and the wheat would appear very thin with low tiller counts.

However, this year many of the secondary tillers may have headed out and began to flower when the plants needed to abandon them. In



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• agron notes

that case, the heads would still be present but poorly filled or blank, and the glumes may be dark. These dark, poorly filled heads often would be lower in the canopy than the heads on main tillers.

In some cases, the heads that died prematurely have been infected with a saprophytic fungus. This is a secondary infection that would have occurred after the tissue had died. It would not have caused the death of the wheat heads but is an opportunistic infection of already dead tissue.

A few diseases can cause dark heads, said Doug Jardine, Kansas State plant pathologist. Barley yellow dwarf can cause dark heads, al-

though not all plants infected with barley yellow dwarf will necessarily have dark heads.

Loose smut will also turn heads dark. With this disease, the glumes and kernels

are converted to masses of smut spores that eventually leave the rachis bare. The symptoms of loose smut are easily distinguished from other factors that cause glumes to turn dark.

The most common cause of dark heads in Kansas wheat this year is environmental stress. These heads probably did not presented a problem to farmers and likely had very little, if any, effect on yield at harvest.

Jeanne Falk is an area crop production and economics specialist for Sherman, Cheyenne and Wallace counties with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

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