

Historic 1934 barrel hangar facing demolition

HANGAR, from Page 1

pecially the one on the east where the addition was torn down a couple of years ago.

John Collett, owner of Butterfly Aviation, the present fixed base operator of the airport, said he has been after the city for over seven years to repair the hangar roof.

Collett has been at the airport since 1966, and said he thinks the major problem is that the old layers of roof were never taken off, and the weight of the layers is what is causing the major structural problem.

Asked if the barrel hangar could be saved, Collett said he does not think the city has the money to repair it, though it would be useful.

He noted that the old hangar is a long way from the main airport buildings today. If the city tears it down, he said, he hopes officials will consider building a new hangar closer to the main flight line.

Hill said he does not know if the city will build another hangar. One plan is to use the old concrete floor and put up a steel building to replace the barrel hangar.

Records from the *Sherman County Herald* and *Goodland Republic* show the cost of the entire airport when built was \$42,783.

In January 1934, the city received \$27,000 to begin clearing the ground for three runways, using 70 men hired by the Civil Works Administration.

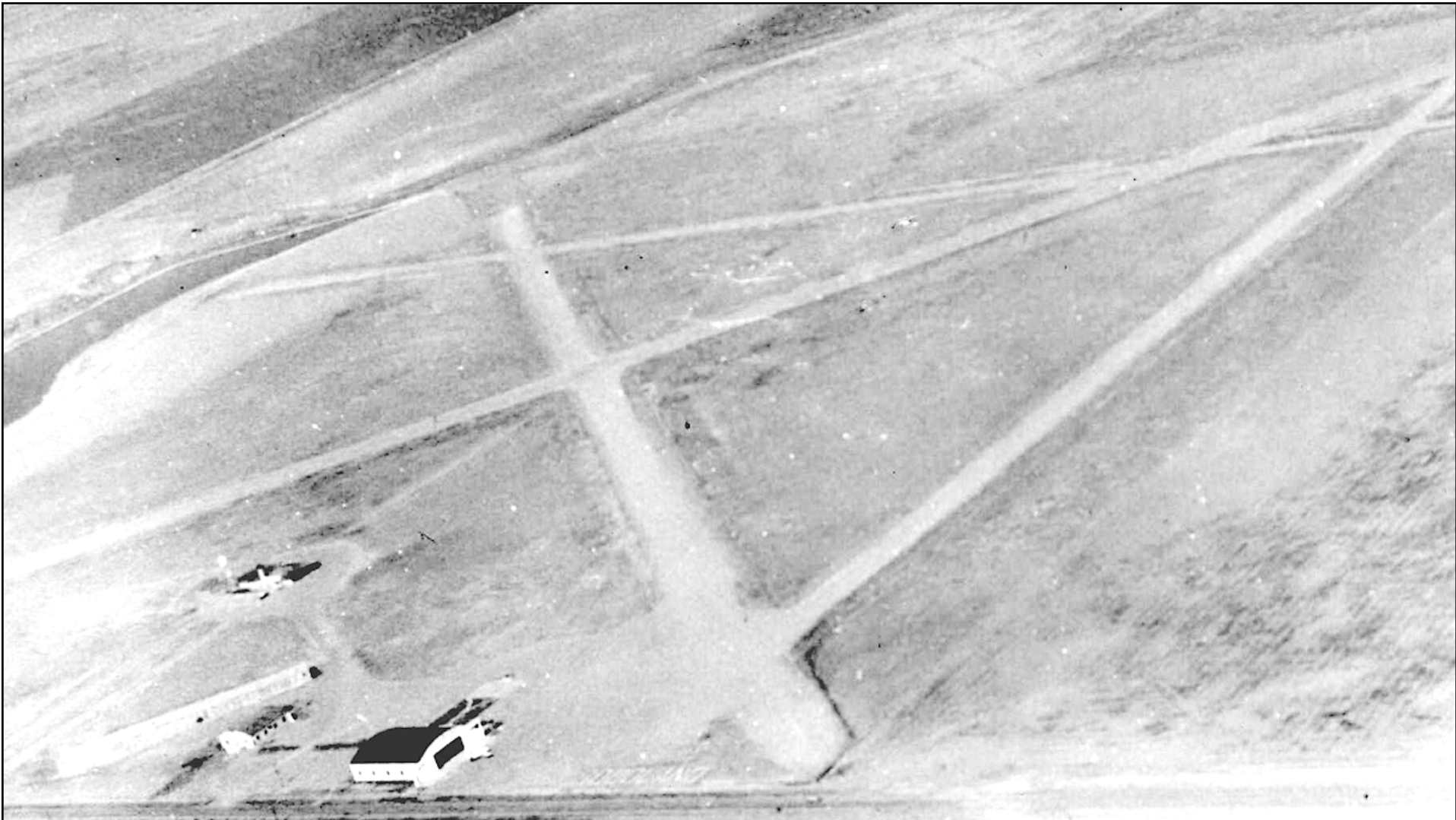
The contract for the barrel hangar was approved in mid-January 1934 to be 80 feet wide and 100 feet long with 18 foot ceiling.

Equipment was brought to Goodland by Dodson Manufacturing to make cement blocks for the depot and hangar and the workers spent days making the blocks.

Steel for the hangar arrived the middle of February in 1934.

South of the barrel hangar, the name "GOODLAND" was laid out in big concrete letters. The huge sign, which exists today, is spelled from north to south in letters are 36 feet high and 24 feet wide with a four-foot stroke.

The airport opened on Nov. 22, 1934, but was not dedicated until Oct. 10, 1935. The present terminal building was built in 1949 and expanded in 1984.



The Goodland airport opened in November 1934 with three hard-surfaced runways and the big barrel hangar. To the northeast of the big hangar was a smaller hanger built by the city when the airport first opened in 1932.

Photo from High Plains Museum collection

Goodland opened first airport on buffalo field in 1926

About 23 years after the Wright Brothers sparked the revolution of powered flight, the citizens of Goodland began to realize an airport was a necessity.

Airplanes, in 1926, as today, found it necessary to stop in Goodland because of the location between Denver and Kansas City.

The first airport was in the northeast section of the city on a field of buffalo grass. It was moved further north in 1929.

At the time the Works Progress Administration was ready to build the big barrel hangar, there was a question about how much land was needed for the airport. Dr. M.G. Renner, a Goodland surgeon who

was an avid pilot/aviation enthusiast, wanted the city to buy an additional 80 acres to ensure there was enough.

The city council told Renner they did not see a reason to buy the land, and he told them that if they did not purchase it, he would. The council gave in and bought the 80 acres.

Dr. Renner saw to it that things were cared for until the city had an airport manager about the time of World War II. Before the runways were surfaced, Renner used to hook a harrow to his car and drag the runways to level and smooth them.

They were surfaced in 1934 with a mixture of salt, clay and sand, 125 feet wide and a foot thick.

Darin Neufeld, engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates who has handled airport improvements for the city, said the contractor putting in the new lights on the crosswind runway last summer had to dig through a section of the old runway.

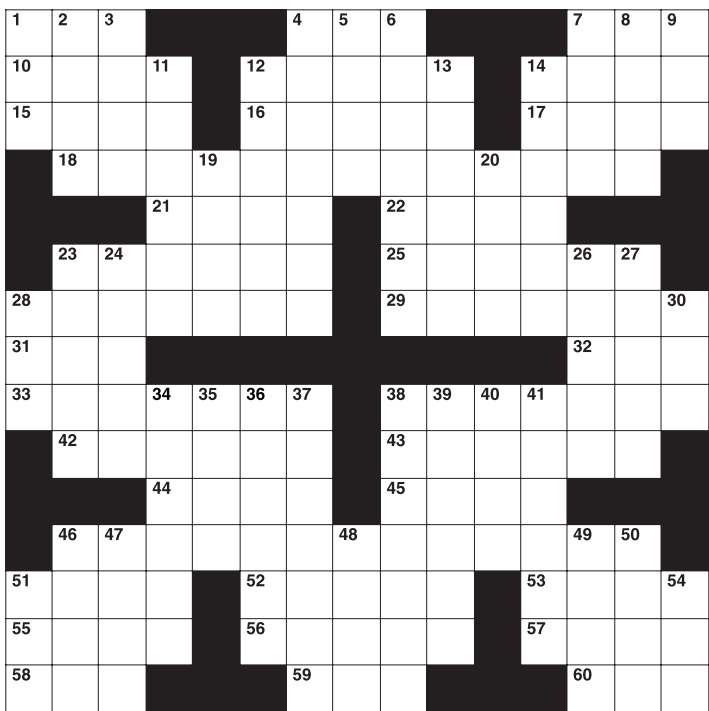
"He tried to trench through it," Neufeld said, "but it was so hard he had to bring a backhoe to dig through."

The administration building, which held the Federal Aviation Administration Flight Service Station and the National Weather Service offices, was built in 1949. An addition was built to the north and dedicated in February 1984.

Today it houses the Butterfly Café, the engineering firm of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, and the FAA Flight Service Station. There is room in the termi-

nal for a commercial airline to use for handling passengers and baggage and freight, but it has been empty since Great Lakes airline pulled out in March 2000.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Watering place
4. Decorate a cake with frosting
7. ___ fi (slang)
10. Part of a fish-hook
12. Cake served with coddled cream
14. Picasso mistress Dora ___
15. ___ mater, one's school
16. A way to color with dye
17. Phil ___, former CIA
18. 36th president
21. Chief magistrate of Venice
22. Tear down
23. Hindu religious teacher
25. The capacity for doing work
28. Curriculum
29. Laic
31. Many not ands
32. ___ Jima, WW II battlefield
33. Removing water from a boat
38. Became a party to
42. Device to cut facial hair
43. St. Patrick's Day beef
44. European defense organization
45. H___sment: unwelcomed attention
46. Contest of wills
51. Trim an apple
52. Express feelings
53. Secular
55. Bridge declarations
56. Iranian city
57. James ___, American steam engineer
58. No seats available
59. ___sies: common flowers
60. Lease

LUES DOWN

1. Helps little firms
2. Lose strength
3. Military land forces
4. Chill manner
5. Verb formation (abbr.)
6. Demands a repeat
7. Malaysian palm
8. Herb ___, San Francisco columnist
9. Wrath
11. Former Saudi Ambassador Prince ___
12. Cigar
13. Colorless odorless gas used as fuel
14. Lesotho capital
19. Portuguese noblemen
20. 1 billionth of a second (abbr.)
23. Short-billed rails of No. Am.
24. Chinese city
26. A way to fly
27. Swerved off course
28. Adult male swan
30. Square measure
34. Spears
35. Iranian city
36. Located below or beneath
37. Cleaned and conditioned
38. Pl. of carved leaf used in mouldings
39. Boned supporting undergarment
40. Stuck in one's
41. Prepare and store fodder
46. The habitat of wild animals
47. Church booklet
48. ___ Parks, civil rights icon
49. Afrikaans
50. Animal body covering
51. Non-commercial television
54. Time of the 90th meridian

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:



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Family remembers old aircraft hangar

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A brother and sister who live in Goodland remember the early days of the municipal airport and the old hangar building.

Linda Holton, director of the High Plains Museum, said she could not find much information about the old hangar, but she did find a few old photos.

She said Mary Lou Isernhagen of Goodland had information about the history of the building and the airport.

Isernhagen said she has been interested in the history of the Goodland airport and the old hangar because her father, Ray Hartzler, was put in temporary charge of the airport in the summer of 1935. She said her dad was the caretaker of the nearby County Poor Farm. The city felt he was close enough to keep and eye on the big hangar and depot, and could service air ships when they dropped down for fuel.

Her brother, Bill Hartzler, who was born in 1920, said he was 14 when the family moved to the county farm south of the new airport.

"I learned to roller skate in the old hangar," Hartzler said Friday. "During the summer, my dad put me in charge of going up to the airport when a plane landed to see what they needed."

Hartzler said about one plane a day would stop in to be fueled from underground gas tanks. He said before the underground tanks, barrels of gas were used to fill the planes. He said the old wooden doors on the hangar were heavy, and he remembered having to open them.



Inside the old barrel hangar at Renner Field, you can see signs of leaks. Daylight streams through holes along the top, between the roof and the walls. Steel trusses and supporting columns hold up the building.

Photo By Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

RECONSTRUCTION OF INTERSECTIONS ON CALDWELL AT 8TH STREET & ARMORY ROAD AND STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

OWNER: CITY OF GOODLAND
PO Box 59, Goodland, KS 67735
TEL: (785) 890-4500

ENGINEER: EVANS-BIERLY-HUTCHISON & ASSOCIATES, P.A.
596 Airport Road, Goodland, Ks 67735
TEL: (785) 899-7019

The City of Goodland will receive sealed bids for the RECONSTRUCTION OF INTERSECTIONS ON CALDWELL AT 8TH STREET & ARMORY ROAD AND STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS. City of Goodland, PO Box 59, Goodland, KS 67735 until 1:00 p.m. MDT, Wednesday, October 11, 2006. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. Bids will be opened and read aloud immediately after the specified closing time.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS:

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Bidding Documents may be examined at City of Goodland and at the Engineer's office.

Bidding Documents may be obtained at the Engineer's office upon depositing \$120.00 for each set of full-size drawings, \$50.00 for each set of 11x17 half size drawings, \$25.00 for each paper copy of specifications and \$15.00 for each electronic set of drawings and specifications. No refunds will be made.

Bid security in the amount of 5 percent of the bid shall accompany each bid in accordance with Instructions to Bidders.

Each of the projects will be reviewed separately for compliance with the Bid Documents, and the OWNER reserves the right to award the contracts to two separate contractors or to award as a package to one single contractor.

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