

# Woman protests book tab

## \$100 'too much' for county book

A Decatur County woman asked county commissioners Tuesday about redeeming a certificate she received when she purchased her history book in October 1981.

Roxie Pomeroy said she got a certificate, which she taped inside her book, to redeem a second book. At the time, she didn't want two, she said, but now she knows several people who would like a book but can't afford it.

The books came from Craftsman Printers in Lubbock, Texas. Around 24 years ago, a committee got together and started to collect information about the county for the book. It was published in 1983.

Recently, County Clerk Marilyn Horn received a call from the printing company. They were cleaning out the warehouse and found about 600 Decatur County books. The company shipped them to the county without a fee.

The commissioners decided they would sell the book as a fund raiser. They talked about price, knowing that at first, the books were sold for \$55 and then later for \$75.

Mrs. Pomeroy, a county dispatcher, said she thought the commissioners should cut the price of the books, which they set at \$100. She said people can't afford that much, and the book is too important to put it out of the price range for ordinary people.

She said she bought her book for \$36 and had the receipt taped inside the book to prove it. That price was for people who ordered before publication, she said.

Earlier in the meeting, Chief Dispatcher Jeanne Pachner said she thought the history books were priced too high. She said \$100 is keeping the books out of the hands of those living on Social Security or on a fixed budget.

Mrs. Pomeroy said she knows someone who really wants a history book, but can't afford it. She said she would like to get an extra book and give it to this person.

The books didn't cost the county anything, she pointed out. The printing company found the books and shipped them to the county free of charge.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said they hadn't heard of the gift certificates before. What if there are 600 gift certificates? he asked.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said maybe they need to talk with Neoma Tacha or Dottie Lotker, who were on the book committee, to see if they know anything about the certificates.

The commissioners didn't make any decisions.

# Extra issue will honor military

For the Fourth of July, *The Oberlin Herald* plans to honor the men and women who are serving their country in the armed forces with a special section that will be printed at the end of June.

To do this, we need your help. Managing Editor Kimberly Brandt said the paper would like to run a short story on each active service member from the county or with ties to the county. To do that, we need people with relatives in the armed forces to call in or stop by the office.

The section will not only honor the troops, but celebrate American freedom.

Ms. Brandt asks the families of the men and who serve our country to call (785) 475-2206 with information or send in a summary to 170 S. Penn Ave. Oberlin, KS 67749.

The staff would like to run some information about each person with a picture, either a face shot or a photo in uniform or involved in some military activity.

The deadline to get military personnel included in the section is Monday.



**CHECKING THE DAMAGE**, Oberlin police officer Scott Zeigler looked inside a Ford Explorer after a head-on collision early Sunday north of town on U.S. 83. Undersheriff Michael French said the driver, Brock Rule, 23, was taken to the hospital for treatment, then charged with driving under the influence. — Herald staff photo by Steve Haynes

# Man scratched in head-on with semi rig

A 23-year-old Oberlin man was arrested for drunk driving early Sunday morning after he drove his 1995 Ford Explorer head-on into a semi truck on U.S. 83 north of Oberlin.

Undersheriff Michael French said Brock Rule was driving south on U.S. 83 from McCook around 1:30 a.m. Sunday when he crossed the center line and drove into a 1998 Peterbilt driven by Matthew Christensen, Phillipsburg.

The impact ripped the left front wheel off Mr. Rule's 1995 Ford Explorer, peeling off the fender and the outside of the driver's door. It also knocked the semi's front axle loose, folding up both front wheels.

Mr. Rule, who was alone, suffered only some minor cuts. The undersheriff said an ambulance took him to the Decatur County Hospital for treatment. After that, he was taken to the county jail and put on the Intoxillizer. The undersheriff said his blood alcohol tested .162, more than twice the legal limit of .08.

He was cited for driving under the influence and released. His father came and picked him up. Mr. Christensen refused medical attention. He said he had picked up a load of plastic pipe in Ulysses on Saturday and was headed to Montana. His truck wound up in the west ditch.

Witnesses who had been following Mr. Rule said they saw sparks after the impact as the truck

skidded along on its frame. They were able to avoid the wreckage, however, and stopped to aid the drivers.

Response was slowed by the fact that their cell phones connected to a Nebraska tower. McCook dispatch sent firemen and paramedics, who eventually found the scene nine miles north of Oberlin, but about four miles south of the state line. By that time, a Decatur County ambulance and police officer Scott Zeigler had arrived.

Undersheriff French said it looked like the driver had been so intoxicated he drove right for the truck's headlights. The rig was owned by J&S Trucking out of Texas.

# Commissioners meet with ambulance crew

Decatur County commissioners scheduled a special meeting Monday night to allow members of the county emergency medical service to air complaints or problems to them and the ambulance director.

At the commission meeting last Tuesday, Dave Eskew, who is married to Karen Eskew, a member of the service, had a list of complaints from the crew. Mr. Eskew is not a member of the service.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said they should hold a meeting to allow volunteers to come forward so that the problems could be resolved.

Some of the complaints included: the ambulance director seldom being in the office, why the locks to the ambulance barn were changed without giving out keys, starting intravenous drips in town, training classes and going out to watch storms in-

stead of working. The list was around five pages long.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said from the contacts he has gotten, it seems there isn't a lot of communication between the director and the emergency medical technicians.

The issue needs to be addressed, said Mr. Brown, outside of a regular commissioner meeting. The best time for the volunteers is evenings during the week, said Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy.

He said he only received the list about 15 minutes before the meeting, or he would have had a chance to answer some of the questions.

The commissioners agreed to hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the ambulance barn in Oberlin. All volunteers were to be invited.

Mr. Unger suggested that an invitation be mailed out.

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