

Billboards approved to advertise U.S. 36 travel

**By HOWARD KESSINGER
The Marysville Advocate**
The U.S. Highway 36 Association board approved two billboards to draw traffic to the route, a large one to go somewhere along the highway in Kansas, and a smaller one to go along southbound I-35 near Cameron, Mo.

The action came during the association's annual meeting attended by about 35 people in St. Francis on June 10.

The larger 10x32-foot sign will urge motorists to "Ride With the Wind" on U.S. 36, while the 12x12-foot sign says: "U.S. 36: Travel the Kansas High Plains, Next Exit — Head West."

The smaller sign will cost \$5,200 because it has an aluminum finish and auto-type paint. Rent for the Missouri property owner is a \$300-a-year lease for 10 years. The larger, plywood sign will cost \$3,000 plus rent for space.

Colorado does not usually permit new "attraction" billboards along its roads, Leon Volk of Commercial Sign in Colby, told the board.

U.S. 36 director Penny Zeller, Seneca, has headed the sign project. District engineers for the Kansas Department of Transportation gave highlights of construction projects along the road. Work is to be completed by November on the first stretch of freeway along U.S. 36 west from St. Joseph. The \$35 million concrete four-lane project runs from Elwood east 6 miles to the state line.

There are 16,400 vehicles a day

crossing the Missouri River bridge, but the numbers fall off pretty fast, said Jerry Younger, district engineer in Topeka. Near Marysville the count is 2,200, he said.

Other major work in this district, from the Marshall-Washington County line east to St. Joseph, includes a new U.S. 75 interchange near Sabetha.

Engineer Don Drickey, Salina, said major work in District 2 will include a \$4.7 million, 4-5-inch asphalt overlay to be bid in 2006 from the west city limits of Mankato west to the K-14/K-128 intersection. A bridge or two will be replaced, and culverts will be extended. All guardrails will be replaced.

To be let about 2007 will be a \$4.8 million major modification from Mankato's east city limit east 9 miles with the same work. A \$1.76 million project will include a 1-inch overlay from Belleville west to K-199 at Courtland.

Set for fiscal 2007 is \$370,000 for widening of the U.S. 36-K-15 intersection in Washington to facilitate semi-trailer truck turns and improve a driver's ability to see east on U.S. 36.

Completing the replacement of curb and guttering in Mankato will be a \$494,000 project to start in fiscal 2007.

Engineer Chriss McDiffett of Norton said work in Rawlins County includes a \$264,000 conventional seal from Atwood west 10 miles, and a \$158,000 conventional seal from Atwood east 8 miles this summer. \$1.4 million in geometric im-

provement work, including new pavement, curb and gutter, will replace the road from K-25 east to Seventh Street in Atwood, with bids in January.

In Decatur County, a \$343,000 conventional seal is to be done this year from Oberlin east 18 miles to the Decatur-Norton line.

Bids are to be let in December 2006 for \$1.1 million in geometric improvements from the U.S. 36-U.S.83 intersection in Oberlin east to Penn Avenue. New concrete pavement and curbs and gutters will be done.

Norton County work includes a \$6 million project now underway from the west K-383 junction 6 miles to West Street in Norton. Included are three new bridges, new paving, shoulders, and curb work.

To be let in September will be a \$17.5 million major modification from the Decatur-Norton County line at Norcatur east 15.3 miles to K-383, with all-new pavement replacing the last stretch of the highway in Kansas which lacks modern shoulders and other safety features.

Cheyenne County historian Tobe Zwegardt, St. Francis, spoke at the luncheon, and offered to give tours of historic sites. Zwegardt, 89, recalled seeing horses and scrapers being used to build Highway 36 west of town.

Board members were re-elected along with president Steve Haynes, Oberlin; vice president James Erickson, Scandia; and executive vice president Cy Moyer, Phillipsburg.

Sad to see Centennial Bowl fire

To the Editor:
As a former proprietor of the Centennial and Red Crown Lounge, I was very sad to see the pictures of the fire at the Centennial Bowl.

I had several friends call Tuesday to tell me about the fire, but to see the pictures were heartbreaking.

I have a lot of fond memories of my old business.

I am so glad I have kept the many pictures I took of all the good times we had, like the bowling parties,

dances, and pitch games with Doc and Rose Harrier, and Joyce Carlton, just to mention a few. There were so many.

My heart goes out to Mory and Ken. It's difficult to see your hard work destroyed.

I hope some day that I can get to-

gether with everyone and we can look at pictures and remember the good times at Centennial Bowl and Red Crown Lounge.

Oberlin has lost a fixture of the town.

Merle "Mom" Snyder
Gem

Letters to the Editor

Reader requests map of old towns

To the Editor:
I was raised in the Jennings area. I have heard a lot about Adell (Sheridan County, used in Yesterday recently), Shibboleth, Jennings, Jackson (about 5 miles west of Jennings), Reardon (north and east of Jennings, and Allison.

could do a drawing of the Oberlin, Norcatur, Kanona, Jennings, Dresden, Clayton and Allison areas, tell about where these places were, their population, miles covered, when they existed, maybe a brief history, and it be printed in *The Oberlin Herald*?

You are printing more history and

it would be nice to see where the areas were.

Moving the Bohemian Hall and the Norcatur church is "seeing" the history!

Betty Sejkora Bouts
586 S. Carr St.
Lakewood, Colo., 80226-3019

Money lost at alumni banquet

To the Editor:
What a privilege it was for me to return to Oberlin, my hometown, to celebrate my 65th high school class reunion! The luncheon at noon at the LandMark Inn and the alumni banquet were great. Everything went well, with good food and lots of helpful and gracious people. Thank you, Oberlin, and thanks to The

Gateway.
There is another reason for this letter. I had cash in the amount of about \$150 in an extra pocket in my purse. I had more than \$100 left, and may have dropped it in the foyer at the tables there. It was in \$20, \$10, \$5 and \$1 denominations, and fastened together with a paper clip.

I realize it could have been swept

out or picked up by an out-of-town guest. It was certainly my fault, and I hold no one responsible but me, but if it was found, and you didn't know where to leave it, would you take it to *The Oberlin Herald*?

Thank you, and what a great place Oberlin, Kansas, is to a native.
Frances (Harmon) Bixby
Cheyenne, Wyo.

Should bird season be lengthened?

To the Editor:
I'm writing to express my concern that the state is planning to lengthen the upland bird hunting season in 2006.

If you were to talk to the majority of the hunters, farmers and landowners, you would hear the season is already too long. If any changes are to be made, we should consider decreasing the length of the season and the bag limit, which still remains at four per day (the highest in the

nation).
The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission will consider the following date changes for 2006-2007 at a meeting next Thursday in Hays:

- Pheasants, first Saturday in November 2006 to Jan. 31, 2007 (one week earlier than in the past).
- Quail, second Saturday in November 2006, to the third Sunday in January, 2007.
- Prairie chicken, third Saturday in November 2006, to various end-

ing dates. They are proposing to keep the Sept. 15-Oct. 15 dates for this season east of U.S. 281.

If you have opinions about these changes, you still have time. Convey them to Commissioner Doug Sebelius by phone, (785) 877-5143, or e-mail, rdsebelius@yahoo.com.

Mike Ferguson, Oberlin, president
Sunflower Chapter,
Pheasants Forever

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