



# McPherson County News

~ Established 1889 ~

*Incorporating The Tryon Graphic*

## Graphic Files

*From The Tryon Graphic Archives*

**TEN YEARS AGO**  
JANUARY 8, 2009

Ringgold Church held their annual Christmas program. Joe Sherwood opened the program with Kim Blake serving as MC.

With the record highs and ups and downs of our economy, many have been faced with instability and uncertainty with our economy. Gas prices varied a great deal in the past year. January of 2009 gas was \$1.69.9 and clear diesel, \$2.59.9. July 15, 2008 marked the year high as gas spiked at \$4.21.9 and clear diesel rose to \$4.87.9.

The family of Ron Sowers was honoring him with a card shower on his 70th birthday.

**TWENTY YEARS AGO**  
JANUARY 14, 1999

DanDee Wonch of Tryon, was among students named to the Dean's List at Chadron State College.

Larry Trumbull of Tryon received word of the death of four cousins within the last 15 days. Esther Bertran Foster died December 22. June Beach Miller died December 25. Ken Booze and his 20-year-old son Daniel of Camby, Oregon were killed in an airplane accident, January 6.

New Arrivals: Emma Marie Fish was born December 31 to Jack and Kristy Fish.

Deaths: Donald R. Musgrove, 87, of North Platte, died January 7; Lawrence Leonard Mueller, 64, of Sutherland, died January 5.

**THIRTY YEARS AGO**  
JANUARY 12, 1989

The boys basketball team traveled to Venango and won their first game of the season. Brett Gosnell led Tryon with 17. Mike Daly scored 12 and Rusty Moore, 11.

Jack Cotton was installed as Noble Grand of the Tryon Rebekah Lodge. Maudene Sowers, District Deputy President, and her staff conducted the installation ceremonies. Audrey French was seated as Junior Past Noble Grand.

Dan Boyer of Mullen would speak for the youth fellowship rally at the Tryon United Methodist Church.

The girls varsity basketball team won their game against Venango. Melissa Power scored 10 points to lead scorers. Ellen Gosnell, Marty Moore and Brenda Connell each put in six, and Bridget Long had five.

**FORTY YEARS AGO**  
JANUARY 11, 1979

Alisa Bullington and Leonard Phillips were planning a June wedding. McPherson County Commissioner, Tom Kemp was elected to the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Association of County Officials.

Susie Bond would serve

as Noble Grand of Tryon Rebekah Lodge for 1979. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. R. Cox and children from Englewood, CO, arrived to spend Christmas in the Von Paxton home.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO**  
JANUARY 9, 1969

The McPherson County Home Extension Council met with County Chairman, Mrs. Clay Kemp, presiding. Mrs. Virgil Shineman was taking over the secretary duties.

John Kramer was elected president of the Merry Mixed 4-H Club at their reorganizational meeting at the Soddy. Dwight Pinkerton was vice president, and Janice Rothwell, secretary-treasurer.

The Come Double Club meeting was again postponed due to the death of Warren Winters and due to the bad weather.

A life-long rancher of McPherson County, Warren Winters, age 72, died January 7 at his ranch home northeast of Tryon. Survivors included his wife, Ora; two sons, Glen and Roy; and four daughters, Dorothy Kemp, Alma Bullington, Wilma Neal and Esther Arensdorf.

**SIXTY YEARS AGO**  
JANUARY 8, 1959

A group of friends and relatives surprised Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cotton at their home in honor of Mrs. Cotton's birthday, which was New Year's Day.

The Tryon Longhorns lost a close contest with Maxwell. Herb O'Connor and Merlin Pettit were high scorers for Tryon.

**SEVENTY YEARS AGO**  
JANUARY 15, 1949

Additional Snow Storm News for the Blizzard of 1949: The highway from Tryon to North Platte was blocked with snow from Sunday evening, January 2, until Friday afternoon, at which time a crew of men from Tryon arrived in North Platte after two days of shoveling snow and finding detours that were possible. Those opening roads were Lisle Pyzer and son Leonard, Tom Edwards, O.E. Black, Harold Johnson, Tom Ellis, C.E. Daly, Don Dobbins, W.E. Neal, Harold Neal, Edward Allen, and Ralph Cook, and Lyle Keesler of Ringgold. These men saw a number of dead cattle along the road and also rescued a few.

MCHS senior boys were released from school to help ranchers get feed to their cattle. The boys were Dicky Schmidt, Byron Daly and Karl Hunn who helped at the Miles Snyder and Chester McNutt ranches; Arthur French, who assisted Frank and Bob Cotton; and Gaylord Wright who returned home to help at his father's ranch. Another student, Stanley Johnson, son of Ralph

Johnson who bought the Bud Wright ranch, was stranded in Tryon during the storm and left Saturday morning on foot to make the 20-mile trip to his father's ranch.

The Don Nicholson's received word that his father, Art Nicholson was sick, and needed help to attend his stock. On Friday, they started through the hills southwest from Tryon enroute to his father's place, but after 12 miles of travel, their car was stalled and they walked to the Leonard Bassett ranch. Earl Lamb was stranded in Gandy so got an airplane to fly him to his father's ranch.

In Ringgold, all roads were blocked and the only way people can get out is by tractor or horseback. Clyde Wilson, Cecil Phillips, Joe Whittaker, Bud Danker, and Paul Heldenbrand broke a road over the hills to the junction west of Ringgold to meet the North Platte mail. Joe Whitaker and Clyde Wilson went into Tryon and brought back several barrels of fuel oil.

**EIGHTY YEARS AGO**  
JANUARY 12, 1939

Dr. A.W. Warren, local dentist, was elected president of the Lincoln County Dental Society.

Dr. Harriett G. McGraw of Tryon and North Platte, was a guest of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt at the White House in Washington, D.C. She had received a special invitation from Mrs. Roosevelt. Dr. McGraw had gained national prominence and the story of her life and work was recently used in the book "Unsung Heroes," written for use in schools as an inspiration to present day youth. Dr. McGraw came to Tryon from Lincoln in 1919 and had practiced here since that time.

A miscellaneous shower was given in honor of Mrs. Maxine Neal.

George Wendling was appointed to act as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners for the 1939 year.

**NINETY YEARS AGO**  
JANUARY 10, 1929

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Tucker took their son, Marvin, and Helen VanMeter back to Agricultural School at Curtis.

Woodson Graham and Willis Bender left for Wyoming with two loads of household goods. Mr. Graham was moving his family to Hat Creek, Wyoming, where he recently took a homestead.

S.W. Warren and Homer Gibbs left for Omaha to drive out two new Fords.

A new six cylinder Chevrolet coach was on display at the show room of the local Chevrolet garage. Mr. Mathers, local dealer, brought the new car up from North Platte and it will be kept on display at the garage here.

## Over The Hills

J.R. Trumbull



Quote: "Educating yourself does not mean that you were stupid in the first place; it means that you are intelligent enough to know that there is plenty left to learn." - Melanie Joy

I'm beginning to think that real wisdom and true education means not depending on technology for everything. I had thought about revamping an old "Over the Hills" but the old computer won't boot up for some reason known only to it.

Experience is a great teacher especially if you allow the bad times, mistakes, and blunders to be part of the learning curve. Don't get down on yourself because something went wrong. Study

See *Over the Hills* Page 10

### Real Wisdom

When I was at the "U" back in '82,  
Down Lincoln, Nebraska way,  
Some professors asked a question  
That really made my day!

"What have you learned while with us?"  
These men of letters asked.  
They thought that I would praise them  
Instead of leaving them aghast--

"Why, Sirs, I've figured out one thing  
While in these hallowed halls.  
My dad, with eighth grade education  
Is much wiser than you all."

"He knows how to use common sense  
And how to think things through.  
What he does will work and last  
Which is more than I can say of you."

"For practical application seems  
A stranger to your realm.  
Just give me an old rancher any day  
To be steering from the helm."

A few of them could understand  
The truth that lie in my words  
But the others were plumb baffled.  
I don't think they even heard!

The wisdom of the ages  
Can be found in just one book  
And in nature all around you,  
Everywhere you look.

It's not a complex issue,  
Just a simple one of faith  
And studying what's around you  
That helps you make that grade.

J.R. Trumbull  
22 February 2006

## Nebraska Timeline

### A Tombstone and a Blizzard

Many tales of Nebraska blizzards can be found in the pages of the state's newspapers. One such story, which originally appeared in the *Chicago News*, was published in the *Kearney Daily Hub* on May 16, 1912. Under the attention-grabbing headline "Ran into Grave in a Blizzard," the article recounted the experience of an unnamed Chicago man who tried to drive a buckboard twenty miles through a blizzard on the Nebraska prairie and his narrow escape from death.

Unfamiliar with Nebraska's winter weather, the traveler set out on his journey amid falling snow. He said, "I had not traversed a half mile before the sheets of snow then falling became blinding. In fifteen minutes more I could not see my broncos' heads, the snow coming down in almost solid banks, while the cold had grown intense. I was not yet alarmed. I did not know enough about blizzards to realize my chance for life was about one in a hundred, so I kept my broncos moving. But when I noticed, after an hour's such travel, my broncos plunging through drifts and the wheels of my buckboard sinking to their hubs in the loose, swirling snow, I began to think it was some storm."

His horses fell several times, but were able to recover their footing—until a muffled crash indicated that the buckboard had hit some solid object. The driver brushed away the snow, which had banked itself against the dashboard, and soon struck a "cold, hard surface. A moment later I saw a stone bearing the words: 'Sacred to the memory of' - A chill ran down my back." The traveler had stumbled upon a lone prairie grave.

He said: "It was impossible to attempt to go ahead in that wilderness afoot,




COURTESY PHOTO

This Sketch accompanied the blizzard article in the *Kearney Hub*, May 1912

and I did not dare go ten feet from my outfit to hunt up a house. The only salvation was to get the buckboard away from that stone. To do so I had to unhitch the broncos, pull them to their feet and work them back to the rear of the conveyance and tie them

there. Then I pulled and hauled on the buckboard until I got it free."

The driver struggled on and fortunately ran across a sod house, "the only one within five miles, occupied by a pioneer settler and his family. I was saved."



## BLOOD DRIVE

### GIVE BLOOD

**Tryon Community**

**Friday, January 25, 2019**

**McPherson Co. Fair Building - Tryon**

**8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**For appointment please contact**

**Elaine Miller - 308-587-2446**

*Walk-Ins Are Welcome & Needed!*