



McPherson County News

~ Established 1889 ~

Incorporating The Tryon Graphic

Concerned citizens discuss road conditions



J.R. TRUMBULL - MCPHERSON COUNTY NEWS

Tryon streets were lined with cars as nearly 50 people attended the June 10 meeting of the McPherson County Commissioners to hear what could be done about county road conditions.

The condition of roads in McPherson County drew a crowd of over 40 people to the June 10 meeting of the McPherson County Board of Commissioners.

Twenty individuals voiced their opinion on the future of asphalt roads in the county, including whether the current asphalt should be replaced or whether roads should be converted to gravel.

Citizens were concerned about expenses, safety and maintenance, and the current condition of roads offering ways to solve problems and make needed repairs.

North Ringgold Road has a number of growing potholes, especially on the south end of the road. Safety of those traveling on the roads was a major concern. Getting the needed repairs done as soon as possible, then focusing on long term goals seemed to be the consensus of the group, even if it meant an increase in taxes.

The McPherson County Commissioners thanked the public for their input.

Following the public forum portion of the

meeting, commissioners discussed road conditions with Edd Black.

Todd Gragg requested concrete sills for an auto gate. The sills are available and were added to the road plan.

A request for road work had been submitted for work on the Soddy Road at mile marker 188 - Thompson Ranch. No decision was made to build the road at this time.

Commissioners will make needed repairs and patching on the asphalt roads, holes will be filled and repaired and patching completed. No other decision was made on roads at this time.

Commissioners approved the June road plan as submitted with the cement sills for Todd Gragg added to the plan.

Other action taken at the meeting included:

- No changes will be made to the current NIRMA Insurance policy.
- A sub-award agreement between McPherson County and West Central Area Agency on Aging for senior meals was reviewed and signed.
- Resolution #2019-10 concerning the purchase

of a belly dump trailer from Jerry Blackwell Trucking & Sales was approved and signed. Payment will be made from the inheritance fund and re-payment to the inheritance fund will be made from the road fund.

- Resolution #2019-11 will convert the McPherson County attorney from contract labor to an hourly wage employee being offered the same benefits offered to all county employees.
- No valuation protests were filed.
- Information concerning the 911 Dispatch agreement was given to the board and included details of future price increases for services. A proposed meeting on the matter will be held in Keith County on July 12, 2019.
- A letter given to the board showed approval from the Tax Equalization and Review Commission of McPherson County Land Values.

The next regular meeting of the McPherson County Commissioners will be held July 10 at 9:00 a.m. at the McPherson County Courthouse.

Between the Lines

Dean Thompson

Early County History

Can we skip again to a long time ago after talking for three weeks about recent fires and floods? I came across what I hope are true facts from more than a hundred years ago. You will remember, no you won't, that Arthur became a county in 1914 (actually the first election of county officials was in August of 1913) after having been a part of McPherson county, which was also a part of Logan county, until 1899. The 1890 census showed the population of what would eventually be Arthur County as 91 and in the next ten years, it only increased by 25! Finally, however, with the passage of the Kincaid act in 1904, which increased the amount of free (you might want to look for a new definition of the word 'free') from its population of 517 in 1900 to 2,470 in 1910 (the *Hustler*, the first published paper in the area) was so 'brash', or 'confident', that in the August 1911 issue it predicted that this figure could easily rise to ten thousand (for the combined counties) by the next census. Shortly after this the people of the 'west end' started clamoring for their own county with a new, and much closer, county seat. Again quoting that 'radical' publication, on March 13, 1913, "For the number of people, and to dispense justice and liberty, would it not be best to make two counties and let Arthur county come back on the map! We believe that would be the fairest way out of it!" So in the 1912-13 session, the legislature they passed a second enabling act authorizing Arthur County to proceed with its organization. On June 10, 1913 the Governor issued his appointment of the first county officials and designated the location for the temporary county seat of

Arthur County, Nebraska. At this location, on June 21, 1913, while the temporary officers were making plans for the first election, while meeting in a covered wagon, several matters of business were taken care of (and tradition says that the first potluck meal was served in the new town, it has become well known for that custom and as you receive this issue of the renamed 'Hustler' we'll be collecting there again, in the same place, for another 'installment' of that first official gathering, including arrangements for the temporary county judge to be ordered to file and start the 'proving up' process on the quarter section that the governor had first designated as the "temporary" location of the county seat. I guess those early counties had caught on early to the practice of collecting funds, with the title 'taxes' soon after their inception. My grandad on his homestead paid a total land/property tax on his Kincaid land and his personal property of \$14.52 and the 'large' Milldale Land and Improvement Company with land stretched across the three counties we've been talking about had paid a total amount of taxes to McPherson county, on land lying in the new county of Arthur, in the amount of \$236.67. In this 'dividing' process the new treasurer of Arthur county, with the familiar name of Staples, had apparently been diligent about trying to collect this amount from Milldale a second time, actually the first time for Arthur County, and I think perhaps everyone, including Milldale, knew that it was a legal transaction, but that it had already been paid to McPherson County. The result of this confusing situation, and

it was probably not made any simpler by the lawyers contacted by both parties, was that the Milldale Company brought suit against Arthur County, naming treasurer Staples specifically, on November 2, 1914. As near as I can tell from the legal jargon, no legal, or common sense decision was arrived at from this court action. I suppose the lawyers on both sides got paid, and Milldale again brought suit on June 11, 1915 about the same matter, but including McPherson county as another defendant. There is mixed information in two different files. I didn't find any other references to it in material at the old courthouse in Arthur with different dates, but it seems the case was finally closed when the treasurer of McPherson County, a man named Pyzer, delivered to the court in Arthur on May 11, 1918, a check in the amount of \$305.70 which included the original tax refund of \$236.67 and interest for the time between when the money had been paid to McPherson County and the final date of settlement. I can't tell, and since we have the old courthouse as accessible as it is now, you're welcome to try to figure it out for yourselves whether Arthur County was entitled to all this interest or whether that was something else about which to go to court. I didn't find any other references to a situation like this and I got my 'jollies' just by remembering all the familiar names of a hundred years ago - thinking about where those first officers lived on homesteads and how, and how often, they traveled to the new townsite to conduct business for the two counties. I don't know how interesting all these little side stories would be to you!

Graphic Files

From The Tryon Graphic Archives

TEN YEARS AGO
JUNE 25, 2009

Local competitors qualify for the 2009 State High School Rodeo at Hastings were: Saddle Bronc qualifiers are Caleb Miles, Thedford; Callan Connelly, Arnold. Bull riding qualifiers are Clint Connelly, Arnold; and Tyler Long, Stapleton. Tie down roping qualifiers are Shane Suchy, Tryon. Steer Wrestling, J.W. Harwager, Stapleton. Barrels, Charlie Opela, Stapleton; Jordan Lovitt, Tryon; and Tylee Coffman, Dunning. Poles, Jordan Lovitt, Tryon; and Tylee Coffman, Dunning. Breakaway roping, Charlie Opela, Stapleton; Tylee Coffman, Dunning; and Tayler Puttergill, Tryon. Goat Tying, Tylee Coffman, Dunning; Tayler Puttergill, Tryon; and Charlie Opela, Stapleton. Team Roping, Michael Hoffman, Mullen and Jake Spies, Brownlee; Shane Suchy, Tryon and Dillon Simonson, Purdum; Callie Correll, North Platte and J.W. Harwager, Stapleton; and Charlie Opela, Stapleton and Cort Chittick, Maywood.

More volunteer workers and increased financial contributions are needed to help Mid-Plains Red Cross fulfill the mission of the American Red Cross in a 14-county area of West Central and Southwestern Nebraska.

The Mid-Plains Red Cross has headquarters in North Platte and covers over 14,000 square miles.

New officers were elected for the McPherson County Historical Society. The new officers were Gina Curtis as President, Betty Schroeder as Vice-President, Gayle Neal as Secretary, Bill Haney as Registered Agent and Treasurer, and Shirley Arensdorf as Keeper of the Keys.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
JUNE 24, 1999

Dana Paxton of Lincoln and Ethan Epley of Nora announced their engagement and approaching marriage. The bride-to-be is a 1991 graduate of McPherson County High School in Tryon and graduated with a business degree from UNL. Parents of the bride are Ron and Linda Paxton of Stapleton. Epley is a graduate of Nelson High School and attended UNL. The groom's parents are Edd and Ruth Epley of Nora. The wedding is planned for August 28th at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Platte.

Army Pvt. Julie M. Valentine has entered basic military training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the eight weeks of training, the soldier will study the Army mission and will receive instruction in drill and cere-

monies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, Army history and traditions, and special training in human relations. Valentine is the daughter of John and Sheila Valentine of Arthur.

Jeremy Arensdorf, freshman, son of Jeff and Shelly Arensdorf of Tryon made the Hastings College dean's list. To be eligible for the dean's list, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.7 to 4.0 and be registered for a full-time course of study. Jeremy was a 1998 graduate of McPherson County High School.

The Vacation Bible School at the United Methodist Church in Tryon was a hit June 14-18. This year's theme was "Treasure Hunt Bible Adventure." Kids learned that the Bible serves as a map for hunting the best treasure of "Jesus." Kids also participated in Bible studies and games. The camp ended with a program of Bible verses and certificates were handed out.

THIRTY YEARS AGO
JUNE 29, 1989

Bridget Long, daughter of Bob and Jo Long of Tryon Route, North Platte, was crowned queen of the 1989 High

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Over The Hills

J.R. Trumbull



Quote: "Don't measure yourself using someone else's ruler." *Unknown*
One of the truest tests of maturity is the ability to disagree with someone while still remaining respectful. It also pays to remember that your attitude can make the difference between a bad day and a good day. Being able to laugh at yourself helps just about any situation.

Another point to ponder: Have you ever noticed that rivers seldom go in reverse? Try to live like a river and keep going forward. Forget your past and keep going forward. I used the word seldom because someone who is also a history buff will remember that the Mississippi River ran backward following one

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Behind the scenes
It's a busy place
Hustle and bustle
Just keep up the pace.

There's much to be done
To make things seem
Like everything's normal.
It's part of the scheme.

Artifice and pretense
Are part of the role.
Actions misleading
Make up the show.

Yes, behind the scenes
Life isn't as it looks.
Things are far different
Than you read in the books.

When you don't understand
How things come to be,
Check behind the scenes
For you influences you and me.

For behind the scenes
There is God's love,
Care and forgiveness
Sent from above.

The way comes easier
As we go day by day
If behind the scenes
Christ is the way!

J.R. Trumbull
12 October 1997