



McPherson County News

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TEN YEARS AGO
JULY 23, 2009

Edith Irene Smolik, age 93, of Lincoln and formerly of Tryon, passed away July 14, 2009, in Lincoln. She was born June 19, 1916 in Tryon, NE to George and Carrie (Holloway) Downing. She lived in Tryon most of her life. Edith married Millard Smolik on July 11, 1935 in Ogallala. She loved Tryon and the Sandhills ranch country. She is survived by two sons, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. A memorial has been established in her name. Services were held July 18, at Adams & Swanson Chapel with the Rev. Truman Bauer officiating.

Lenard and Rose Pzyer have returned home after being recent visitors in Nebraska. Joel, Davina, Emma, and Joziah Pzyer were also guests in the Pete and Lela Pzyer home in Tryon, visited Louie and Polly Siegel in Stapleton, and the Gary and June Farmer home in North Platte. Other guests in the Farmer home were Rocky and Pat Nicholson, Kolter Smith, the Craig Dailey family, and Toni Allen and Kylee. The Pzyers enjoyed the weather, rain and the storms - the country looks so good. They arrived back home safely to dry, dry, California.

McPherson County Fair dates have been announced and plans are being made for the August 6-8, 2009 event. The 4-H Horse Show will be held Friday, August 7 and the 4-H Livestock Show is Saturday, August 8. This year's fair will include a barbecue Saturday evening, and a dance with music by Bree DeNaeyer. Be sure to make your calendars.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
JULY 22, 1999

Members of the Hastings College Student Association Executive Council have been appointed, and Student Senators, Election Board and Student Judiciary Council members have been elected for the 1999-2000 academic year. Among the new members of student government is Jeremy Arensdorf of Tryon, Student Senator. He is the son of Shelly and Jeff Arensdorf, Tryon.

Relatives of Matilda Haney began to arrive on Saturday, July 3, when grandchildren came from Washington and California. Matilda's 99th birthday was on Wednesday, July 7, when the McClarys brought a beautifully decorated cake to serve with ice cream for all to enjoy. The day included much visiting and picture taking. This was the first time the family had all

been together for many years, and it was such a happy time for all. Matilda also received many cards and gifts from family and friends.

The 1999 Summer Health Professions Career Workshop at the University of Nebraska Medical Center is where Tyler Daly will be July 19-23. Tyler, son of Charlie and Melanie Daly was one of eighteen chosen out of 168 applications received. During the week, he will have an inside look at UNMC and the various health professions. Daly will be required to present a five to ten-minute presentation at the end of his program during the week. While there Daly will be staying in the dorm at Creighton University.

THIRTY YEARS AGO
JULY 27, 1989

The Class of '83 hosted a bridal shower Sunday, July 16, for Nadean Daiger and Don Spaulding. A large crowd was in attendance and Nadean and Don received many useful gifts.

The MCHS Class of 1952 held a reunion and class picnic at Lake McConaughy near Ogallala Sunday, July 23, with eight of the ten class members attending. Host and hostess were Dale and Joanne Jennings who entertained the group at their cabin on the lake. The eight who attended along with their spouses and friends were Velma (Newberry) Applegarth, Doris (Johnson) Fischer, Joanne (Black) Jennings, Robert Neal, Rose (Hunn) Barner, Audrey (Priest) French, Richard Kemp, and Roberta Pettit. The two not present were Bernice (Winters) Allen, and Hazel (Thompson) Yates.

Hans Johnson, Will Coffman, Leo and July Dailey helped Tom and Billie Burch and boys move into their new home in Tryon on July 15th.

Word has received Sunday of the passing of a friend and former neighbor, Hiram Fisher. "Hi" lived in this vicinity many years before moving to Sioux County NE. He was survived by two daughters, Richardi Hagerman of Anaheim, California, and Shirley Post of Chesapeake, Virginia. Also, two sisters, Florence Andrews of Mitchell, and Helen Gibbons of Woodburn, Oregon.

FORTY YEARS AGO
JULY 26, 1979

Rodney Trumbull, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Trumbull of Tryon, was named to the Dean's List for the second semester in the College of Engineering and Technology at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Fran Fisher of Tryon was a patient in Bryan

Memorial Hospital at Lincoln. She was the business and art teacher at McPherson County High School along with being the school guidance counselor.

Officers had been elected for the McPherson County Fair Board as follows: Marvin Munson was re-elected as president; Linda Kemp was elected secretary-treasurer in place of Ilene Daly who had resigned, and Lavelle Johnson was the new member of the board. The other board members were Wes Sharp, LeRoy Daly, Max Rothwell, Lynn Power, John Neal, and Helen Wendling.

Bart Daly and Evonnda Sharp were to travel with the Nebraska High School Rodeo Team to the National Finals in Fargo, North Dakota, July 29-August 5. Evonnda won the breakaway roping at the State Finals in 17.52, and Bart teamed up with Billy O'Connor of Ogallala to win the team roping in 7.30 seconds.

FIFTY YEARS AGO
JULY 24, 1969

Miss Susan Kinsman arrived home last Thursday on a leave from the W.A.V.E.S.. She has recently been promoted to Airman, and is stationed at Corpus Christie, Texas.

Mrs. Lavelle Stoddard was surprised on Sunday, July 13, with a pre-birthdate gathering when members of her family brought a lovely baked ham dinner to the Stoddard home. Present were Mr. and Mrs. George Mayfield, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Mayfield and daughters, Mrs. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Bringewatt and family, Mr. Henry Broeder and Mr. and Mrs. Louie Broeder.

Steve Neal, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Neal of Tryon, was one of the 112 successful bidders at the "no-money" Gooch Red Circle Auction held July 18-19 on the CK Ranch near Brookville, Kansas. Serving as Steve's official sponsor to the auction was T. W. Haddy, the Gooch Feed Dealer in the Tryon area. Steve was pictured with the Hereford heifer he selected.

Gayle Neal, Judy Stevenson, Connie Shimmin, Lucille Kemp and Rex Kemp painted the swings and tables at the park in Tryon on Friday of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Daly, Lynn and Sheryl, and Mrs. Jim Doyle and children attended the 4-H Horse Show at Arthur on Sunday.

SIXTY YEARS AGO
JULY 23, 1959

Bruce Shimmin and Mike Coty helped Frank and Allen Shimmin do some branding Friday. Frank and Jessie, Bob Farrar and Harry Schlientz were dinner guests of Allen's that day.

The W.S.C.S. of the Methodist Church in Tryon have been authorized by the Watkin's dealer to distribute "Fresh Aid," a cold drink concentrate, in this area.

The W.M.S met at the Wesleyan Church July 14. Rev. Sidney Lloyd oversaw worship. After the meeting, a surprise birthday party was held at the parsonage in honor of Mrs. Lloyd. The ladies presented her with a set of dishes, and ice cream and cake was served.

Mr. Leo Lindahl, who
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Between the Lines

Dean Thompson

Early County History

I hope you had a glorious Fourth! And do you realize that July is a third gone? And that the year is half gone? I won't pursue that line of thought any further. Do you think time flies? Well, I've been reading some of the old *Hustler* papers and I found a poem, and a week later a rebuttal from June 1911. It was easy to identify T Q from Eclipse but I was not able, with my short memory, to figure out who the F W from Collins might be that disagreed with Tom Quinn (I have heard lots of stories about Tom).

That Government Claim. Don't ask me my name, a young married man I am and I'll bet all the same we've an elegant plan! You will find us out west on the sandhill plains, starving to death on a Government Claim!

Hurrah for this country, the land of the free, the home of the grasshopper, the bedbug and flea. I will tell of its joys and sing of its fame, While starving to death on a Government Claim!

My mansion is built of the natural soil, the walls are erected according to Hoyle. The roof has no pitch but is level and plain and we always get wet when it happens to rain!

I am having a good time, I live at my ease, on common soup, sorghum, bacon and cheese. Then come to this country, there's a home for you all where the wind never quits and the rain never falls!

Where the sun never sets, but sweetly remains 'til it burns up the crops on our Government Claim. Oh, how happy I feel on my Government Claim! There's nothing to lose and nothing to gain!

I've nothing to eat and nothing to wear, so nothing from nothing is honest and fair. It's here I am settled and here I must stay, my money's all gone and I can't get away. There's nothing will make a man hard and profane, like starving to death on a Government Claim!

Hurrah for this country where blizzards arise, where the sun never sets and the flea never dies, Come join in the chorus and sing of its fame, you poor lonely settler that's stuck on a claim!

Later
Farewell to this country, farewell to the west! I'll travel back east to the place I love best, I'll stop in old Hawkeyes and there meet my wife and live like a prince the rest of my life.

And then the next week, June 16, 1911, F W responded

I'm a middle aged man and have seen more of life than our friend Thomas Q and his talented wife! And if exaggeration was the unpardonable sin there would be small hopes of Heaven for our friend Thomas Quinn!

"Starving to death on a Government Claim", that sounds to me like a Kansas wail. Or a man from Texas with a horrible tale. He had better be selling "Wright's patented pills", if he can't make a living in Nebraska's Sandhills!

"Starving to death on a Government Claim." In this land of plenty, sunshine and rain! Where the land fairly teems with corn, with 'taters', and honey, and each settler's pockets are bulging with money.

"Starving to death on a Government Claim," the

idea is absurd, don't say it again. Go weed out the garden, away with your fears. Go out breaking broncos or else feeding steers.

Yes, Hurrah for the country, the land of the free, of course there are bed bugs, and sometimes a flea! Roll up your sleeves, Tom, plow your taters again. And you won't starve to death on your Government Claim.

"Farewell to the country, farewell to the West, there's no better country, no place is the best! Stay there with your friends, your children and wife, and you will be happy the rest of your life.

There was yet another poetic rebuttal a week later in the *Hustler*, dated June 23, 1911 which we might print later. If we find a connecting story or some reference to one of the writers. It seems to be common knowledge that Tom Quinn was the first 'white' child born in McPherson County, on June 17, 1886 and died in 1972. He had a colorful life and many stories have been told about Tom. I've heard several stories that I've never seen in print and would hesitate to repeat them without further proof of their truth. Tom dug, with dynamite, ditches to drain many of the lakes and valleys and many of them still exist after several cleanings. It probably was a good thing that Mr Quinn didn't have to deal with many of the government regulations of today or he would have written even more poetry about the "R" line and that other "R" (Republican River) that bothers me twice a year when I pay the taxes on another one of those Government Claims!"

Over The Hills

J.R. Trumbull



Don't start your day ginning. Every morning with the broken pieces of that we wake up in the yesterday. Every day is a first day of the rest of our fresh start and a new life.

DOES IT MAKE SENSE?

There is common sense and horse sense
Putting things in the present tense
You can find that you have won by appearing to lose.

So, if you have thought things through
And remain to God and yourself true
Then it doesn't matter what others accuse

Because you know the truth
And you're really not too obtuse
So, you will find it can amuse.

For a sense of humor wrought
Can help steer you as you ought
In traveling life's road at a cruise.

So don't be afraid to stand
And lend a helping hand
But take care to never abuse.

It's not just the one you wrong
But all who happen along
Who are affected by the news.

Just keep your eyes on God
And when you're beneath the sod,
Your spirit flies on rainbow hues.

What really matters is beyond
The bounds of earthly bonds
And God is in charge of all that's due.

The choice is yours upon this earth,
Heaven's glory or hell's dearth,
The final decision is up to you.

J.R. Trumbull
5 January 2006

In Memory of Dorothy Kramer

10-26-1923 to 7-11-2018

We thought of you with love today,
but that is nothing new.

We thought about you yesterday,
and days before that too.

We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name.

All we have are memories,
and your picture in a frame.

Your memory is our keepsake,
with which we'll never part.

God has you in his keeping,
We have you in our heart.

Corky, Dora, Kenneth & Clyta
and Families