



# McPherson County News

~ Established 1889 ~

*Incorporating The Tryon Graphic*

## Graphic Files

### From The Tryon Graphic Archives

TEN YEARS AGO  
AUGUST 20, 2009

The 59th annual Neal Family reunion was held Sunday, August 2, 2009 at the fair building in Tryon. Fifty-seven relatives and friends signed the guest book. A delicious carry-in dinner was held. The happy birthday song was sung to Richard Kemp for his 75th birthday. Sharon Neal baked the birthday cake, which was enjoyed by all. The afternoon was spent visiting, playing cards and eating. The day closed with a supper of hot dogs and left-overs.

The Miller-Harvey picnic was held August 2, 2009 at Cody Park in North Platte. Approximately 114 people signed the guest registry. There were several attending for the first time. The oldest in attendance was Bill Votah, 94 years, father of Belinda Miller. The youngest was Kade Songster, two months, son of Kyle and Dana (Arensdorf) Songster.

Two students of McPherson County Schools in Tryon have participated in the 2009 Logan County Rodeo Princess Contest. Arika Starr is the 10-year-old daughter of Scott and Bobbi Starr of Stapleton. Arika will be in the 5th grade at Tryon this year. She maintains an "A" average, is active in showing cattle, and participates in 4-H projects. Arika participates in Jr. Rodeos and has been involved in the wild pony races. She has been an active participant in Rodeo Bible Camp for the last two years. Arika hopes to be a large animal vet one day. Kandace Ward is the 12-year-old daughter of Mark and Kelly Ward of North Platte. She will be a 7th grader at Tryon. Her hobbies include volleyball, junior rodeo, track, swimming, and helping her parents at their bull ridings. Her favorite events are barrel racing and pole bending. Kandace wants to be a small and large animal vet when she gets older. The Rodeo Queen and Princess will be crowned Sunday, August 16, at the Logan County Fairgrounds.

THIRTY YEARS AGO  
AUGUST 24, 1989

Don Nicholson, "The Singing Sheriff of McPherson County," won the Class A horseshoe trophy at the McPherson County Fair for the third straight year. Steve Neal of North Platte, won the trophy in the Class B Division, and Ray Branting and Harold Arensdorf won the Doubles Tournament. The event was sponsored by the McPherson County Farm Bureau. Helen Pettit's quilt was judged as "Best in The County Needlework." The quilt featured blue calico oak leaf squares on a tan background. Graveside services were to be held August 25, 1989, at Miller Cemetery near Tryon for Henry E. Railsback, 74, — of Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He was a teacher at McPherson County High School in Tryon in the late 930's and early 1940's. His wife is the former Eva Bassett. The Bauer families held

testants who will represent Lincoln County in the State Fair FCS Contest were: 12 & 13 year olds: Jennifer McCall, North Platte. Alternates: Susan Bryant and Jessica McCall, both of North Platte. Jennifer and Jessica are the daughters of John and Gaylene McCall of North Platte, and the granddaughters of Richard and Carolyn Kemp of Tryon.

The 1999 Arensdorf picnic was held at Russ Hoatson's in North Platte. Everyone had a nice day with the time spent visiting. The oldest people present were Lora Ross and Ruby Humphrey, and the youngest was Donavan Freeman.

Brad Whited stopped to see his grandmother, Geneva Neal, Sunday afternoon on his way to Arthur to a team roping.

Lloyd and Cleo Connell and Dorthy Haney visited at the Jim Snyder's place Sunday afternoon and visited with Wayne Connell, who is spending a few days in the Snyder home.

Mr. and Mrs. George Winters, their daughter, Karman and her three children from Garden City, Kansas, called on Dorothy Kramer Saturday afternoon, August 14th. They were here for the 40th wedding anniversary of Chubby and Sharon Dailey, held at the Stapleton Youth Center on Sunday, August 15, 1999.

Audrey French was a Thursday dinner guest of Judy, Julie, and Paul Kramer and their friend, Wyatt Smith of McCook. Laura Kramer is still working at the Maranatha Bible Camp, but was home over the weekend.

FIFTY YEARS AGO  
AUGUST 21, 1969

A car driven by Errol Waits was a total loss when they were hit by another car at an intersection in North Platte Sunday. Riding with Errol was his sister, Leora, and Kathy Thompson. All three were taken to the hospital for observation and Leora had to stay longer for tests, but is home now. Errol and Kathy received minor cuts and bruises.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Connell, Janelle and Jill Snyder were Tuesday evening supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bassett, Ken and Sandra. Kathy Thompson, Jodeen Black, Mrs. Clayton Huffman and Bruce, Wanda Priest, Reva Cotton and Gary Connell all called later in the evening.

Word was received on Wednesday that Mrs. Al (Dorothy) Knott had passed away Tuesday evening. Funeral services were held at the Baptist Church in Arthur.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Waits, are the proud parents of a baby boy, Michael Ray, born August 17, 1969.

Our first free barbecue served at our county fair

a family reunion a week ago Saturday at McCook. All the 13 living brothers and sisters were present.

SIX ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS in McPherson County will soon be opening their doors for the 1979-80 school year. Teachers for District 4 at Tryon will be Dessie Bellew, K-2; Nora Miller, Grades 3-5, and Charlene Connell, Grades 6-8. A total of 28 students will be enrolled. Gayle Neal will teach District No. 7 (Hall School) where there will be seven pupils; Becky Brown will teach District No. 9 north of Tryon (seven pupils) Susan Alberts will teach seven pupils at District No. 26 in the Flats area, and Alice Dobbins will have eight students at District 28 west of Tryon. Marie Chapman will teach at District 59 at Ringgold and will have six pupils.

Two new teachers at McPherson County High School will be Cynthia Roffers of Rushville, and Darold W. German of Sutherland. Wedding pictures and write-ups of Brenda Nicholson and Jess Cochran, and of Janelle Snyder and Kim Blake, were featured in this issue. The Cochrans were married in an August 4th ceremony; and Janelle and Kim were married June 30th at the Ringgold Church.

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## Over The Hills

J.R. Trumbull



ready have been given. We need to remember that sometimes you face difficulties not because you are doing something wrong, but because you are doing something right.

We cannot force someone to hear a message they are not ready to receive, but we must never underestimate the power of planting a seed. In the blink of an eye, your life can change or your life on this earth can end. Be sure to make the most out of each moment. Plant seeds where you can and remember that each day is a gift from God.

Quote: "You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." C.S. Lewis

### HARD LESSONS

Many hard lessons have I learned  
As I've journeyed on life's trail.  
Words are cheap and flattery vain,  
Honesty and integrity never fail.

Romance isn't worth all the fuss,  
Time will show what's true.  
Don't get the cart before the horse  
Or you'll be done before you're through!

Take time to know the field  
And how it's best to be played.  
Rushing can make a mess of it all  
Even when the best plans were laid.

Dreams can be deceiving  
With thoughts of what might be.  
The person you think that I am  
Might not even be me.

J.R. Trumbull  
4 Oct 2012

## Between the Lines

Dean Thompson

### Early County History

Some stuff that I write, and most certainly some stuff that other people write, can't be pinpointed as to time or eventual happening. I have pretty good documentation for the building and certainly the existence of the first jail in Arthur county. It's right there for you to look at (and then you can believe, or not, the rest of what I write). I left out that little word "it" so Ripley couldn't accuse me of plagiarism!

We can only imagine some of the discussion that had taken place in the first two years of the existence of Arthur County, and the pro's and con's brought up by the first officers, and can only wonder about the security provided with/for anyone taken into custody, even if it was only to allow time for 'sobriety' to be restored. Did the first Sherriff simply handcuff his prisoner, or maybe just tie his arms around a tree with his handy-dandy lasso? In later years I heard Sherriff Fwank Hayes - Fwank didn't have any teeth - tell about taking into custody, and probably putting in that jail, one of the feisty, inebriated local young guys. This young citizen could no doubt have easily handled Fwank in an evenly matched scuffle but Fwank told me, "I hit him with my 'biwvy' and he was easier to handle!" Whatever method was used it was not satisfactory and on May 21, 1916 we read that the commissioners met with a representative of both a "jail building firm" and the salesman from "The E T Barnum Iron Works" for a 'steel cage holding cell'! No prices were quoted but

apparently the officials hadn't heard, "Hey, it's just tax money" and at the close of that same meeting ordered the County Clerk to advertise for separate bids for labor and for material, to build the present 'old' jail where it still stands today

There's room here for a little diversion about this matter of 'incarceration' in Arthur County, and earlier in McPherson County. From the sod courthouse in Tryon there was often the need to deal with a little disagreement, or political rebellion, from the "West End." This "West End" is what is now Arthur County, and as I understand it, was all one voting precinct. In July of 1912 'they' had 'bitterly opposed' the purchase by McPherson County (and I guess 'they' had the authority to levy a tax on that opposing group) of a set of "tool proof jail cells from the Pauly Jail Company of St Louis, Missouri at a cost of \$1,500" and spend the ridiculous sum of \$180 to enclose it in a small frame building near the sod courthouse.

To continue with this branch of the 'story', Arthur became a separate county in 1914 and didn't care that those 'spend-thrifts' at Tryon voted different bond issues and special mil levies to start construction on a new courthouse in 1925 (this was not the first 'new' courthouse for Tryon because when, as one person supposedly said, "the wall paper was holding up the roof", 'they' had built a frame building around the sod and shingled the roof. I wasn't around yet, but supposedly that 'expensive' hold-

ing cage was placed in the basement of the courthouse as it was built and by the time I arrived in McPherson county in 1926 (that was the date on the capstone above the door when they finished) the building was nearing completion.

Getting confusing, isn't it? Time, perhaps more certainly in Nebraska than in the old towns of Europe and Asia, is hard on buildings. Arthur replaced it's 'smallest courthouse' and I outlived the one at Tryon. In their new (it's hard to define 'new' anymore in the throw-away world in which we live) no jail was planned. It's almost impossible to find someone who feels that he or she is being treated fairly. The accused, the suspect (and I agree with the concept that I should be considered innocent until proven 'guilty') demands better treatment than the officer protecting the public. But I believe that a metal 'cage' (probably not a \$1,500 one) should be good enough for a "Jail Bird"! I rather imagine, and haven't had the opportunity to check like I did on the above 'story' that the cages where we now take our "accused" are 'gilded cages' and the service and treatment are at least 'four star'! But like I said earlier, "It's only tax money" and nothing we are allowed to include in the enforcement of decency seems to be any 'deterrent' to crime! How about Fwank's 'Biwvy'?

Watch For Our  
Special Fair  
Section...  
August 29 Issue



the big  
**80**

Join Us To Celebrate The  
Birthday Of

**Vernon Waits**

Open House: 1-4 p.m.

Sat., August 17, 2019

McPherson County Fair Building  
Tryon, NE

Let your presence be your gift.