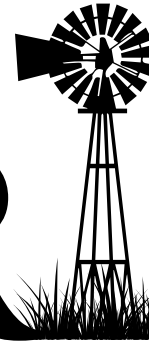


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THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2019

NO. 30

Good-bye to a Logan County landmark



ADAM WONCH

A ceremony at the laying of the cornerstone of the new gymnasium was conducted Saturday, August 30, 1930, and a brief history of the Logan County High School at Gandy was given by Mrs. Hill. The cornerstone is still visible on the auditorium.

MEGAN AMOS

It only took a strong Nebraska wind to take down 89 years of Logan County history.

Late Friday night, July 12, the old Gandy Auditorium's roof collapsed. Early history of the building shows that in the spring of 1922 an alumni association was formed which proved to be of great help to the life of the Logan County High School. For several years the school had no suitable place where athletics could be taught, or where programs of the school could be held, except for the courthouse which had been used through the courtesy of the Logan County commissioners.

Carl Whipperman was among the first to discuss seriously the possibility of a gymnasium. The Chairman of the Board at that time was A.R. Ensign and through his efforts and that of the other members of the Board, bonds were finally voted for the erection of such a building. Board members B.H. Smeed, B.V. Dawson, Agnes Bakewell, R.K. Haskell and Bennett Bailey took up the work and under the direction of Mr. Said, the contractor, the cornerstone for the gymnasium was laid on Saturday, August 30, 1930. The building was built in the fall of 1930 and was located just south and a little west of the school house, facing to the north.

Included in the cornerstone was a time capsule

with names of alumni, a Bible, names of teachers, history of the school, an alumni booklet, and pictures of the school buildings.

On January 16, 1931, the gymnasium and auditorium was dedicated with a large, free program. Musical speaking events were included the Gandy Orchestra, children's chorus, poems, instrumental duets, musical solos, and many other musical performances. The sports contests were trick and fancy roping and riding, nail driving contests, a cornhusking contest, boxing, and other sports. The program ended with a free barbecue beef dinner, and a free basketball game vs. Arthur County. Approximately 700 people were in attendance at this celebration.

For many years, the L.C.H.S. basketball teams won many trophies at district meets and earned honors during state competition. The social activities were just as memorable as the athletic ones. The "Mother Club" raised funds to help furnish extra items needed by the school when the money just couldn't go around. There were plays with the cast picked from talented parents, talent show contests, fun nights with games, and other entertainment including card parties, cake walks, pie socials, box suppers, school dances regular square-club dances, band concerts, special school plays, lodge parties, fam-



JANICE BUKER

An 89-year-old Logan County landmark went down in a Friday night, July 12, windstorm. The gymnasium and auditorium located south of Gandy, was dedicated on January 16, 1931, with a large program. It served as a basketball gymnasium, and in later years was the site of numerous community functions.

ily parties, and dinners, special holiday celebrations, and Oldster's parties.

When the Logan County High School closed, and transferred to the Baker Rural High School at Stapleton, the gym was used for practice sessions for basketball because there was no gymnasium at Stapleton.

After the addition to the Stapleton School was built, the Stapleton R-1 school district board donated the Gandy Auditorium to the L.C.H.S. Alumni Association in 1964. For a few years, the Baker Rural High School and the Logan County High School Alumni had their annual dances following their banquets in the Gandy Auditorium. A few more dances by the L.C.H.S. Alumni, a voting place, and a few other activities were the extent of the use of the building.

The building was not always in use, and had no special caretaker. The building soon deteriorated until it was no longer usable, and the

L.C.H.S. Alumni Association decided at their 1973 annual meeting to sell the "Old Auditorium."

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Platt of Gandy bought the building in June and spent the summer "fixing up the old place." The floor was completely refinished and the stage curtains cleaned. The trees were trimmed, making a beautiful picnic area. The twenty-third

Oldsters Party, sponsored by the Neighborly Extension Club, was the first organization to use the building on October 7, 1973, for a social activity after the renovation. There were 176 people in attendance.

Other types of activities held in the auditorium were wedding receptions, bridal showers, special meetings, private parties, elections, and Wrangler

Playhouse productions, which drew record crowds. Over 150 people gathered on November 3, 1973, to celebrate the Platt's 40th wedding anniversary.

The Platt's later sold the Auditorium to the Erickson brothers in March of 1981. The building had fallen into disrepair in recent years before finally collapsing in the windstorm.

Paying more for dispatch

MARCIA HORA

McPherson Co. Commissioner John Bryant was among officials from area counties and the city of Ogallala who met recently with Keith County commissioners. Discussion centered on the future of interlocal agreements through which Keith County serves as public safety answering for a seven-county region, including Grant, Arthur, Hooker, McPherson, Logan and Perkins counties, and the city of Ogallala.

Most of the agreements are more than 10 years old, and with the exception of Perkins County and Ogallala, county entities pay less than \$5,000 a year for the 911 service.

An audit of 911 expenditures versus revenues, showed an average annual deficit of \$97,192 or

a total of \$972,561.

Commissioners in area counties have been visited and a new billing formula is being looked into.

Along with Bryant, others in attendance at the meeting were Perkins County Sheriff James Brueggemann and Commissioner Steve Tucker; Arthur County Sheriff Bill Simpson and Commissioner Mark Wilson; Hooker County Sheriff Wynn Wiens; and Ogallala City Manager Bruce Smith, Clerk Jane Skinner, Council President Deb Schilz and Chief of Police James Herman.

Hooker and Grant counties commissioners participated via a web-conferencing service. Emergency Manager Elizabeth Sillasen presented two model proposals after she had visited with area commissioners. Currently Logan and McPherson counties are

each paying \$2,400 a year for the 911 dispatch service. Either proposal presented at the meeting would increase that amount by at least ten times.

Logan County emergency manager, Sean Carson, said one proposal would increase the county's fee to \$2,700.00 per month, and another proposal to \$18,000.00 a year.

"We are looking at other options for 911 service for our residents at this time. I have been in contact with Cherry and Lincoln counties," Carson said. Bryant stated he would like to see a tax-base comparison of the various counties for possible consideration in coming up with a formula.

State law requires counties, or metropolitan-class cities ensure 24-hour 911 availability for their residents.

Village Clerk resigns

Village of Stapleton clerk/treasurer, Viviana Martinez has resigned her position effective Wednesday, July 17.

The village office is temporarily closed. Patrons are asked to deposit their check payments in the

drop box and take all cash payments to Milissa Kramer's office located south of the Stapleton Post Office. MJK, CPA office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Village of Stapleton Board of Trustees will be meeting to decide what steps need to be taken to find a clerk replacement. Patrons are asked to please bear with them during this process.

-- News Briefs --

McPherson County Fair Concert Planned

The group involved in putting on the music program, "The Sandhills Through Song," at the 2017 Eclipse celebration, is planning a reunion by having the gospel music program at the McPherson County Fair on Saturday evening, August 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the park in Tryon. Everyone is looking forward to once again having the privilege of singing gospel music together. Each person is selecting their own song. Bring a chair or blanket, and plan to have an enjoyable evening.

McPherson County Historical Society Meeting

A McPherson County Historical Society meeting is being planned Thursday, August 1, in the commons room at the McPherson County High School in Tryon. Discussion will center on future plans for the Society. If you have any interest, please attend the 7:00 p.m. meeting.

Local Blood Drive

A blood drive is planned Wednesday, July 31, at the Stapleton Community Center from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. See page 10 for complete story.

McPherson Co. News



- Graphic Files
- Over The Hills
- Neal Family Reunion

Notices



- School District R-1 Regular Meeting Proceedings
 - Logan County Six Month Report
 - McPherson County Employee Salaries
 - Logan County Commissioners Proceedings
 - McPherson County Commissioners Public Notice
- Be An Informed Citizen

Weather



DATE	HI	LOW	MT
9	76	61	1.45
10	84	56	.08
11	79	56	0
12	85	57	0
13	92	62	.61
14	90	63	0
15	90	62	0

Thunder was observed on July 9 and 12.

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