



McPherson County News

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Incorporating The Tryon Graphic

ZNEZ

Between the Lines Over The Hills

I've been referring to different things, like articles in old newspapers, as "jumping off places" for different articles I've been writing in the paper. That is a rather crude way of saying 'item of interest' but it got me to thinking about the old days of the 'westward movement' across our country 'back in the day' and I found references to Independence, Missouri when I tried to research this. I thought of other references from several years later in the settlement of our own area. I wrote in earlier articles about Whitman being such a place, where easterners got off the train and started south, looking ahead at 'nothing', many of them with only the clothes on their back and some unconfirmed report of something in the distance.

I've used a lot of words to introduce, once again, the sad fact that I'm just like that in looking for ideas about which I might interest you, 'nothing' except my memory! I spent a while visiting with Dave Sizer, as he looked through the 1951 Arthur papers so I could blame him for some of my mistakes. Oh that was a very progressive year for Arthur County and maybe I'll use my words, just to convey my own experiences with telephone lines and power lines. We've come a long way, Baby!

The January 21st issue of *The Stapleton Enterprise* quoted from the January 18th *Tryon Graphic*, the following, "A contract for the construction of about seven and a half miles of Highway Nebraska No. 61 between Arthur and Hyannis was awarded Friday by the State Highway Department. Up to the present the Highway Department has constructed and maintains No. 61 just five miles north of Arthur. The contractor's work will start at that point and will extend to the Arthur-Grant County line."

If some of my dates, or other facts, are wrong I apologize in advance.

When I started to high school in the fall of 1959, I thought Highway 61 was only surfaced to the top of the first hill so another approximately four miles had been surfaced before this 1951 bid letting and I believe this was done while my Dad was serving as commissioner as I remember him telling

about being involved in some small way, with procuring the right of way!

To repeat just those few words "when I started to High School in 1959," Art Leeds and his two girls lived in a sod house where the State maintenance yard is now. The older girl, Miriam, was gone from home. I believe she married Floyd Goad during the time I was in High School, Gwendolyn was in High School with me and Ardeath was still in grade school. Kind of a detour there. Art was the designated State maintenance man for Highway 61 from the County Line south of Arthur to that point on the hill a mile north of Arthur. I believe Art made this trip twice a week with four mules on a plank drag. I think this drag had both a seat and standing platform on it. Sometime during the four years I was in High School (yeah, I know some folks think it took me more than the usual four years, but not so. Ask Maxine Kramer, I believe she was just two years behind me watching me struggle, the Department of Roads traded a two cylinder John Deere tractor, I believe a Model D, for the mules. I think of the similarity of that scripture verse in Luke 16:10 where it can be 'deanafrazed' to read, "If you take good care of mules until they are old we'll get you a tractor that is just as old." I might throw in a remark about something not many of you have seen. I had to be taken to the dentist when we didn't own a working car. One of my uncles took me to Ogalala in a car with no top (no it wasn't a convertible) and they were building the highway roadbed, around Ackley Valley, with all mule powered equipment.

I don't know if that piece of road was all finished yet to the county line, north of Arthur, when in the fall of 1951 I drove a Chevrolet four door to Alliance and traded for my first new Ford pickup. It was red, had a heate, but no radio and cost me \$1,252.00. My memory is not too good, I really had to dig deep for that, but I believe they, I think that was the 'Cover-Jones' Ford dealership, allowed me enough for my car that I paid \$895 to trade!

Maybe I can add just a few more words to tell

Dean Thompson

you that when I started writing this and referred to a 'jumping off place' I wasn't thinking about that trip to Alliance. When you drive north to Hyannis now imagine the county line as the 'end of the road' and try to picture the cuts through the hills where we traveled from there to the north! As I think back to that time I realize that probably was a 'jumping off place' and a lot of credit for the building of this cattle country goes to those fellows, some of them only 'boys' who rode horseback, rode a freight wagon pulled by four horses or mules (a few people like the Shaws, continued to make that long tiresome trip with oxen) to haul the supplies needed from the railroads. Next week we won't need to look for an 'idea' but just dig deep for memories. And one week, soon, instead of 'jumping off' we will 'jump over' to highway 92 which is about as essential to most of us as is highway 61!

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J.R. Trumbull

As most of you know, I do like my cats and have found that they have, and still do, provide me with something that costs most folks quite a bit of money. I won't think about how

much they cost me in cat food because in addition to being a "living" weighted blanket, they also provide mouse and fly patrol and a lot of love and company.

INNOVATIONS

Weighted blankets are the thing Or at least that's what I'm told. They form the blanket around you So you don't get cold.

Gee, I've had weighted blankets For quite a few years now. They are warm, purr and cuddly And they even say "Meow"!

My version of the latest Is an old standby for me. My blankets are pure feline And they pile on me with glee!

It usually starts with Felix and Sadie And the others do join in. Toots, Fred, and Stubbs Do my body pin!

I can't move unless they leave But my body is quite warm With build in vibrators- A suffocating swarm!

J.R. Trumbull
28 Jan 2021

Graphic Files

From The Tryon Graphic Archives

TEN YEARS AGO
FEBRUARY 17, 2011

Julia Hines won the championship round of the McPherson County Spelling Bee and will represent the county at the Omaha World Herald Bee in March. Dane Daigger received the runner-up award.

Deaths: Harriet "Chris" (Hill) Leth, passed away February 5, 2011, in Fort Collins, CO.

MCHS sophomores who wrote poems and published them in the *McPherson County News* were: Tim Scott, Remington Cutler, McKenna Bessmer, Levi Eberle, Austin Starr and Frankie Lewis.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
FEBRUARY 15, 2001

Roxane Munson and Pete Pyzer, both of Tryon, were pictured holding an afghan that Mrs. Munson had crocheted for the MCHS Junior Class to be raffled off for a fund raiser. The afghan featured the red and black school colors with an emblem of a Longhorn in the center.

The McPherson County boys basketball team won over Mullen 73-30. Scoring for Tryon were Tyler Abel, Corey Neal, Jared Arensdorf and Joe Cochran.

Featured in the MCHS Senior Spotlight that week was Megan McNutt.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

FEBRUARY 14, 1991

John Kramer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Manley Kramer of Tryon, has been called as an Army Reservist, to serve as an artillery instructor at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He and his wife, Judy and their two children, Kerissa, age 10, and Brent, age 8, live on Hillcrest Drive north of North Platte.

Relatives here have received word that Sgt. Kevin Wilson of the U.S. Air Force, has returned to his home base in Florida. He is a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Von Paxton of Tryon, and also a grandson of the late Clyde and Lulu Wilson.

Dustin Wilkie, son of Dallas and Margaret Wilkie of Tryon, was the winner of the second annual Geography Bee held at School District No. 4 in Tryon.

Dave and Lorie Hunn of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, were the parents of a baby daughter, Shyenne Shay, born February 2, 1991.

FORTY YEARS AGO
FEBRUARY 12, 1981

County Agent, Terry Gompert announced in his column that the extension office at Stapleton had an Agnet Terminal that hooks up to a computer at the Capitol Building in Lincoln.

Gayle Neal brought little Anthony Rodewald to the

Lloyd Connell home after school Tuesday and he stayed to visit his grandparents until Wednesday p.m.

Bill Armstrong was a supper guest with the Elmer McClains Thursday evening after helping Rod Daly. Others helping were Carl, Kent and Marvin Rundback.

FIFTY YEARS AGO
FEBRUARY 18, 1971

The Tryon grade school volleyball girls added another win over Brady. Scoring points were Bonnie Lake, Marge Shirley, Merry Bullington, Deanna Nicholson, Dorriane Shirley and Brenda Wilkins.

Among those in the Flats community who went to Lincoln for the hearing on Compulsory School Re-districting were Mr. and Mrs. Art Daly, Geneva Connell, Don Bullington, Jim Snyder and Mr. and Mrs. John D. Streiff.

SIXTY YEARS AGO
FEBRUARY 16, 1961

Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Miller are inviting everyone to the wedding of their daughter, Lois Elaine, to Robert B. Cotton. The wedding and reception were to take place at the high school auditorium in Tryon on February 26, 1961.

Rev. Winkelmann left for Atkinson, Wednesday morning where he will be the special Youth Week

speaker in the Atkinson Wesleyan Methodist Church for the rest of the week. Paul Heldenbrand and Jerry Anway are in charge of the services here in Tryon.

New officers at the Tryon Rebekah Lodge are Geneva Neal, Noble Grand; Darlene Waits, Vice Grand; Hollis Snyder, Secretary; and Helen Daigger, Treasurer. Lunch was served by hostess, Jack Cotton.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO
FEBRUARY 15, 1951

Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Snyder and son, James, of Mitchell, were in Tryon Tuesday to attend the funeral services for Mrs. Snyder's father, Mr. Mandes Heldenbrand. Mrs. Snyder had spent the last three weeks with her father in California, at the home of her sister, Mrs. John Sidlik and family.

Clyde Reynolds left last week for Los Angeles, California to visit his mother and sister.

Mollie and Jo Mann spent the weekend at the Bob Rea home in North Platte while their parents were in Hastings.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Clifford and Norma Jean left Sunday for California to visit with her mother and sister and family for a couple weeks.

EIGHTY YEARS AGO
FEBRUARY 13, 1941

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bender returned home Sunday evening after a three-week trip into the

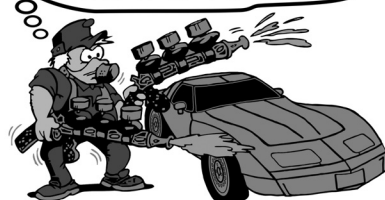
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