



By Barb Westeman

HAMILTON COUNTY HISTORY

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20 YEARS AGO-

Sheriff Mike Keating read to the kids during story time at the Hamilton County library this past week. Sheriff Keating says he likes to read to them in celebration of his Irish heritage.

George Kilgore won a new John Deere tractor mower at Saturday night’s benefit for Cass Wilson and Nancy Scanland. The profit from the benefit rose to over \$22,000.

Donna and Jimmy Hill had a word from their grandson, Jeremiah Smith, that he is in Wasburg Germany, having left Iraq and expects to be back in the states in April, and on to Syracuse as soon as possible.

Katie Lewis, daughter of Daryle and Dalene Lewis of Syracuse, was awarded the 2005 distinguished Merit Award for the 16th annual area high school exhibit from Baker Art Center and Oxy USA Inc., of Liberal KS. This exhibit, which features 14 area high schools, will be displayed at the Baker Art Center in Liberal through April 3rd.

30 YEARS AGO-

The Hamilton County Commissioners made a motion during their February 6, 1995, meeting to conduct an opinion poll allowing county residents to express their opinions regarding time change. The poll will be conducted through the mail. Results of the poll will be discussed during the regular Commissioners’ meeting on April 3, 1995. Only voters who are properly registered in Hamilton County will be allowed to vote on this issue. If the results of the poll indicate residents are in favor of the change to Central Standard Time, the commissioners will recommend a public hearing be conducted by a representative of the Department of Transportation.

The construction of the \$400,000, nine-hole golf course South of town that began in January, and was expected to be playable by October, apparently will be delayed due to an injunction brought upon the county commissioners by “12 angry men”. Over the weekend, Commissioners Earl Willis and Dennis Carter were served with restraining orders, prohibiting Hamilton County from further construction on the new Golf course and baseball diamonds until a hearing can be held. The temporary restraining order, that was filed at the request of 12 people calling themselves the Hamilton County Taxpayers Association, was granted by District Judge Steven J. Nyswonger last Friday, for possible violations of state laws. County Attorney Moran Thompson stated that the matter is under review by the County Attorney and the County Commissioners.

40 YEARS AGO-

Syracuse High School musicians did well at the Hi-Plains League Music Festival held at Southwestern Heights last Tuesday. The Syracuse Singers and a vocal solo by Ira Rundell received the highest marks from the judges, ratings of 1plus. Mark Whitfield earned a 1 rating for his trumpet solo, while 1 minus ratings went to the mixed choir and Kim Fulton’s vocal solo.

The first of the series of events cel-

ebrating the Centennial of the Syracuse Presbyterian Church will be held Sunday; Worship Music of the past. A concert and hymn singing will be held Sunday at 4:30 PM in the church sanctuary. In addition to the program, the church choir will hold an Orange Irish Stew supper (Presbyterians in Ireland are called Orange Irish) following the concert. Additional events planned throughout the year include memorabilia fair, history of women’s work service, a white elephant sale, a reunion weekend, and a Centennial Commemoration Service.

Richard and Theresa Blake are the parents of a daughter, Taryn Lynn, born February 20th at St. Catherine Hospital in Garden City. Grandparents are Gary and Joana Rash and Kathleen Blake, all of Syracuse.

Mary Jo Lampe and Brian Richter, Syracuse High School seniors, have been added to the All-League High Plains League Basketball Teams selected by league coaches. Lampe was one of the league’s highest scoring girls, averaging more than 13 points per game for the season. Richter led the Bulldog boys in scoring, averaging over 12 points per game.

Elmer and Elsie Ploeger will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary March 24th. Honoring them on this special occasion, their children, grandchildren, and the Chatterbox Club will host a covered dish luncheon for friends and relatives at 12:30 PM at the Kendall school cafeteria. A reception will be held after, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.

50 YEARS AGO-

The jail had an unusual prisoner for a few days last week. The “prisoner” was an American eagle, which had been found along the highway about 10 miles north of town. Motorists notified the Sheriff’s Office, which picked up the bird. “We didn’t have any other place to put it, so we used the maximum-security cell”, Sheriff R.J. Nichols said. The bird had a broken wing and possibly a broken leg. It either flew into a power line or was hit by a vehicle, the sheriff surmised. Ordinarily such birds are turned over to the game protector, but he was out of the area. It was taken to Lakin, where a member of the staff of the Garden City Zoo picked it up.

The Syracuse Co-op has moved into its new office and warehouse building, located behind the firm’s service station on South Main Street. The office was open late last week, although some merchandise is not moved yet, and all work on the warehouse is not completed. In addition to the large lobby area, it has good sized offices for manager Gerald Schmidt, and bookkeepers Hugh Barr and Mrs. W.T. Reed. The new building has a 70-foot electronic scale, shop facilities, and a basement under the office part of the building with kitchen facilities, storage, restrooms, and a large meeting room.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Higbie of Syracuse are the parents of a son, Lance Dale, born March 11th at 6:15 AM.

Matt Maune and Randy Johnson, members of the Bulldog basketball team, were unanimous selections on the All-HPL

Team, chosen last week by league coaches. Maune, a senior, made the all-league team for the second straight year. It was the first selection year for Johnson, a junior, and one of the top scorers in the state.

60 YEARS AGO-

The population of Syracuse has passed the 2,000 mark for the first time in history. The population stood at 2,015 as of Tuesday afternoon, according to the county clerk’s office.

A “Bennett Breather” breathing machine, which has several applications in treating patients, has been given to the Hamilton County Hospital. The money was donated in memory of Beau Warren Hartshorn, with money coming from a fund donated at the time of his death. About \$500 was given in little Beau’s memory, and of this amount, \$200, was given to Children’s Hospital in Denver for research, and the rest was used locally.

The annual science fair of Coolidge Schools was held last Monday. The fair was directed by Claude Yates, science instructor, with exhibits judged by Richard Moore, Kendall High School science instructor. Roy Gerard, Scott Reed, and Bud Smith took top prize in the 5th and 6th grades with their exhibit on fire extinguishers. Second place went to Adell Eddy, Marsha Reed, and Sheryl Libertus on a question-and-answer board. Blue ribbon winners in junior high were Rose Smith and Joyce Libertus with an experiment on bread mold, commercial versus homemade. Second place went to Keith Reed’s experiment on learning ability of a guinea pig, with third place going to Marilyn Barrett and Gail Schoonover with an experiment of the effect of hairspray on a guinea pig. David King topped the high school division with an experiment on how heat affects motion. Second place went to Linda Crittenden and Carol Hatcher, with the effect of alcohol on a guinea pig.

Syracuse grade school and junior high musicians scored extremely well at the Johnson grade school music festival last Saturday, bringing home 45 “1” ratings out of the total of 69 entries. The instructors of the students are Mrs. Paul Evans, junior high vocal music, Anne Watson, grade school vocal music, and Richard Weldon, instrumental music. Syracuse entries scored four “1 plus” ratings, the highest possible. Gaining the top marks were the 7th grade girls’ ensemble, junior high cornet trio and Skip Reed and Bill Lewis, trumpet solos.

75 YEARS AGO-

You want to keep the night of June 25 open for the whole familys’ enjoyment this year. George Nycum of the Veterans Memorial Organization entertainment committee announced this week that the famous Koshare Indians, interpretive Indian dancers of La Junta, Colorado, have been secured as Syracuse entertainment for that date.

The Syracuse Farm Bureau unit met in the fellowship room of the Methodist Church Wednesday March 15th. The meeting was held to demonstrate the use of electrical and modern equipment. The lesson leaders were Mrs. Charles Holdren and Mrs. Wilbur Fulton. They prepared a

delicious dinner which was served at noon.

Twenty-three track team hopefuls have reported for workouts which are now underway at Syracuse high school, says coach Merle Gibson. In spite of the chilly weather, which has confined their activities mostly to limbering up exercises, squad members are beginning serious work toward getting in condition. The Syracuse squad roster carries the names of only five returning let-termen, Ronnie Jones, Dallas McNitt, Gary Coleman, J.D. Yancey, and Dale Cheatum.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Starkey are the parents of a daughter, born Wednesday morning, at the Donohue Memorial Hospital. They have given her the name Cheryl Sue.

80 YEARS AGO-

Corporal Walter Wedel, who was recently wounded in action, writes his parents that he is in a hospital in New Guinea and is recovering satisfactorily.

Hamilton County will be asked soon to join with the rest of the nation in making gifts of clothing to be sent to liberated areas of Europe where the Nazis have raided shops and homes and left the people destitute. Among the most needed articles are heavy underwear for children and adults, warm dresses for girls and women, baby clothes, suits, and overcoats for men and boys. Blankets are also needed. The people of America are called on to provide these nations with clothing they need because American mills and factories are busy with government contracts to provide clothing for military personnel and civilian needs here. Look over your clothing supply and be ready to give your share at the beginning of the drive.

Eggs this week were going for 39 cents a dozen, and \$8.40 a case at Reno Creamery, M.C. Fulton, Mgr.

First Air Force, Philippines: Captain Ralph P. Brower, son of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Brower, was recently awarded the Air Medal for sustained operational aerial flights over enemy territory in the southwest Pacific area. Captain Brower is a Liberator pilot and flight leader serving with the Sixth Photographic Group, Reconnaissance, “The Hawkeyes” Fifth Air Force unit on Leyte Island, Philippines. Besides the Air Medal Captain Brower is the recipient of the Asiatic-Pacific campaign ribbon with one Battle Star. He has flown 55 combat missions totaling 385 combat mission hours.

90 YEARS AGO-

A dust storm of unprecedented violence swept through Hamilton County over the weekend. There was a lot of damage to the fields, tying up all forms of traffic and causing housewives and merchants hours of labor cleaning up the mess. The dust penetrates everything and everywhere.

Hugh Jackson and. E.W. McNeill attended a meeting of federal and state highway officials in an effort to get Highway 270 the direct route from Miami, FL to Colorado. They want the highway declared a Federal Highway terminating with its junction with Hwy. 50 in Syracuse.

Miss Lucille Thompson and Miss Jesse Mae Singer have returned from Winfield, where they attended the annual convention of the Kansas Federation of Music Clubs.

BULLDOG OF THE WEEK



In the world of Scholars Bowl, it’s not just about knowing the answers-it’s about having the confidence to press the button and take the chance, It’s a lesson that Gloria Barrett learned throughout her Junior High Scholars Bowl season: Press the button, even when uncertainty lingers.

At the start of the season, Gloria hesitated. She feared that a wrong answer might hurt the team. But as time passed, her confidence grew. “I became more confident as the season went on, realizing it was okay to miss a question once in a while,” she said. It was this shift in mindset that transformed her performance and, ultimately, helped her team excel.

By the end of the season, Gloria had answered 72% of the questions correctly at two crucial meets. Her steady improvement and fearless spirit played a pivotal role in guiding her team to victories. And while her

knowledge was vast, particularly in European history, it wasn’t just her intellect that set her apart-it was her heart.

As Coach Einspahr noted, “Gloria’s experiences living overseas in Spain gave her a unique perspective. I could always count on her to nail the European and history questions.” That foundation of knowledge and experience gave her an undeniable edge, but it was her work ethic that truly shined. Gloria attended 98% of all practices and consistently brought a positive attitude, a radiant smile, and a contagious laugh. Her presence was a source of encouragement, uplifting her teammates no matter the circumstances.

Reflecting on the season, Gloria shared her thoughts with humility and grace. “The only thing I would have liked to change was finishing a little better at the league meet,” she said. But that didn’t overshadow her achievements. With a 3-3 record for both the A and B teams at league, Gloria’s impact was undeniable. Her advice to her peers was simple yet powerful: “Don’t let the fear of one wrong answer hold you back from answering others.”

Those words resonate beyond the Scholars Bowl team. In every challenge, in every opportunity, it’s not about perfection-it’s about having the courage to try, even when success isn’t guaranteed. Well said, Gloria Barrett. You are a true inspiration.

LET’S GO TO THE MUSEUM



by Kay Dennis Columnist

BELLE STARR -That name in the 1800s put fear in the minds of the railroad. Belle started out her career as a Faro dealer and played the piano when not dealing Faro. The casino she worked for gave her a palomino for her to ride. She dressed it by silver bells on the saddle and dressed in a buckskin dress complete with fringe and pearl handled revolvers. She made quite a sight. Meanwhile in Oklahoma, the Younger brothers were making a not so good reputation. After a train robbery the Younger gang went to Dallas where they hooked up with

the James gang and Sam Starr. Belle fell for Cole Younger but he didn’t want more than a one night stand, so she settled for his brother and joined the whole gang. They terrorized Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas.

They were arrested and sentenced to a year in jail. When they were released, Belle and Sam Starr settled doing illegal things. They had a son and daughter. But one day she was going into a store and was shot in the back by some unknown person. So ends the story of the notorious Belle Starr.

The saddle and pearl handled guns are on loan from Tom Jones of Ogden, Utah.