

Historic Times: Mary, The Murderous Elephant

By Roger Hardaway

In a previous column, I mentioned the fact that the Puritans in seventeenth-century Massachusetts executed two dogs for the “crime” of being witches.

Throughout history, humans have killed dangerous animals that posed a threat to them in one way or another. Remember the rabid dog in “Ol’ Yeller”?

But perhaps the most bizarre case of an animal being put to death in the United States is the story of Mary, the murderous circus elephant.

At the time Mary’s execution took place, the event was widely reported in the press. But the “facts” of the case vary from one source to another, so exactly what happened and why might never be known.

Mary was one of the star

attractions of the Sparks Brothers Circus. Her owners touted her massive size (some sources say she weighed over 10,000 pounds!) to attract customers.

On September 12, 1916, while the circus was in Kingsport, Tennessee, Mary attacked and killed her handler. Consequently, her owners decided that she was too dangerous to continue to live.

Some of Mary’s two-legged co-workers protested, arguing that the pachyderm had never exhibited any dangerous tendencies before.

But some sources say that Mary had indeed killed earlier. This version of the story holds that it was commonplace in the circus world to change a killer animal’s name and sell it to another

company.

Presumably, Mary had killed as many as six people previously while being called by two other names.

At any rate, Mary’s owners decided to terminate her life. They shot her several times, but her hide was so thick the bullets merely bounced off of her.

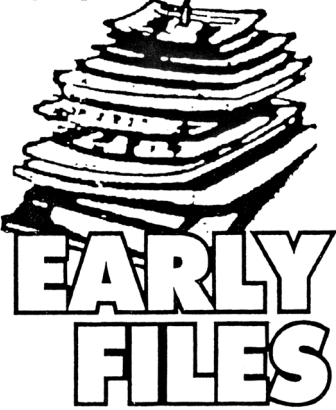
So, they made the decision to hang her. But from what? They located a railroad company that had a derrick big and strong enough to hold her.

But, on the first attempt, the chain that was going to choke the life out of her broke. A second, stronger chain was located and the execution proceeded forthwith.

Mary was dead. And whether or not she had ever killed before, she surely never killed again.

News & Memories

From Our



60 YEARS AGO - 1965

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Harris and Sherry were in New York City to attend the National Associated Grocers Convention. They also attended the World’s Fair while there.

At the regular meeting of the Clonion Club, Mrs. Kenneth Clark showed colored slides of Alaska and the Alcan highway taken while Mr. Clark was stationed at an Air Base there.

Miss Christie Patterson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Patterson, was one of the participants in the piano recital presented by the pupils of Mrs. Richard Zeller and Mrs. Ed Palson.

50 YEARS AGO - 1975

Jane Ann Denton and Robert Max Mize, two students from Anthony, were among 700 to be honored at Commencement exercises at Emporia Kansas State College.

The Central Baptist Church hosted their annual Mother-Daughter banquet at the Church. Following a delicious covered dish meal, several of the ladies presented “Fashions A LaFrivious.” Mrs Doris Barrett played appropriate piano selections while Mrs. Harold Jayne described the “Lovely” fashions. The models were Mmes. Bob Denton, Bill Bollman, Ernest Hoopes, Lee Wade, Sam Underwood, Pat Hall, Roger Hughbanks and Mrs. Blanche Neal.

Ruth Hibbard, a student from Anthony attending Sterling College, participated in a group piano recital at the College in Spencer Auditorium.

40 YEARS AGO - 1985

Board members for the Anthony Farmers Cooperative Elevator for the current year were: John Walker, Ron Meyer, John Carothers, Darwin Francis, Dwight Hoopes, Ron Eslinger, and O.J. Tracy, Jr. Coop manager was Larry Wood.

Marriage License issued:

David Allan Hoopes, Anthony and Evon Hart, Anthony.

At the regular Alpha Alpha meeting, entertainment was presented by a local barbershop quartet consisting of Leon Ballenger, Kent Olds, Larry Olds and Pat Prouse. The Pledge Ritual was held at the meeting for Marilea Struble, Terri Hughes, Ruth Ann Newsum and Jackie Conrady. Ritual of Jewels followed for Pam Harbin, Angie Cloud, Jerri Reber, Sally Woodson and Jeanne Jelinek.

30 YEARS AGO - 1995

Harper County Extension Agent Paula Welch had resigned from her position here to take a job with the Lyon County Extension Service in Emporia.

Valedictorians for Chaparral’s 1985 graduating class were Jennifer Longbine and Brandon Zierkle. Co-salutatorians were Jarold Baker and Brandi Ricker.

A special reception was planned for Chaparral High School science teacher John Ryman who was retiring after teaching for 31 years in Harper County.

For the first time in several years, six students in the Chaparral FFA had received scholarships to judge livestock at colleges. The six were: Chandra Muller, Taylor Cox, Brian Waldschmidt, Curt Miller, Sara Eslinger and Eric Renner.

20 YEARS AGO - 2005

Around 2,700 students at Kansas State University were candidates for spring graduation. Graduates from this area included: Anthony - Jason Paul Bollman, bachelor of science in agriculture; Curtis Austin Olds, bachelor of science in architectural engineering; Amy Renee Misak bachelor of science; Maggie Marie Shaw, bach-

elor of science; Jessica Nicole Halsey, bachelor of science in agriculture. From Danville - Amy M. Jelinek, bachelor of science in family studies and human services. From Harper - Cody Wayne Garten, doctor of veterinary medicine; Kimberly Dawn Kerschen bachelor of science in dietetics; Jill Ann Polsley, bachelor of science in education; Justin Cory Robinson, associate of technology and bachelor of science in aeronautical technology.

Valedictorians of the 2005 Chaparral High School graduating class were: Kassi Kerschen, Aaron Podschun, Lacy-Ann Kitzman and Kinzie Kiser. Salutatorians were Leanna Fallis and Dendra Moore.

15 YEARS AGO - 2010

Four Anthony Elementary students won Walmart gift cards and pizza certificates at the Shrine Circus. Winners were Harley Dory, Maddy Barker, Carson Gates and Brianna Snyder. Shriners Wayne Kiser and Allen Thomas presented the prizes.

After 105 years of holding a race meet every July, Anthony Downs would not open its doors for the 2010 summer meet. The Anthony Fair Board voted to not have the Anthony Downs parimutuel horse and dog races, or any races or training the 2010 year due to lack of funding.

Linda Zink retired after 36 years of educating children in the Kansas Public School System, 23 of those in the Harper Elementary and Anthony Elementary schools.

On May 21st a retirement party was held at the Harper

FILES

Continued on next page

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First Published in The Anthony Republican, Wednesday, June 18, 2025) 3t

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF HARPER COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Marriage of)
Irma Herrera Morales) Case No. HP-25-DM-11
and)
David Herrera Morales)

NOTICE OF SUIT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO DAVID HERRERA MORALES:

You are hereby notified that Irma Herrera Morales has filed a Petition for Divorce. The Petition for Divorce has been filed in the District Court of Harper County, Kansas. Irma Herrera Morales is asking the court to grant a divorce and to make other orders. You may file an Answer/response to the Petition for Divorce with the court and provide a copy to the Petitioner on or before August 18, 2025, but not more than 41 days after first publication of the Notice of Suit in the newspaper. If you do not file an Answer/response with the court before the date listed above, the court may grant the divorce and make other orders.

Irma Herrera Morales
615 N. Lincoln
Anthony, Kansas 67003

REPUBLICAN CLASSIFIEDS

RATES: Classified Reader Rates - Minimum Charge \$8 (20 words); 10¢ per word thereafter. Classified display - \$5.30 per column inch; Reader ads (not classified), Memoriam and Poetry 50¢ per line; Cards of Thanks minimum charge \$8 up to 50 words, 5¢ per word thereafter. **DEADLINE:** Classified reader ads for regular listings on the Anthony Republican classified page must be in our office by noon Mondays. Those received later will be inserted on another page under “Too Late to Classify”. All classified ads are payable in advance. A \$1 billing will be added for non-ledger accounts. No positions sold.

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT: Offering a full range of services including roofing (shingles & metal), guttering, siding and more. Call 405-614-5519 today for a FREE estimate! Fully insured and licensed in Kansas & Oklahoma. Be sure to mention this ad when calling!
M-12-11-tfc

KCAN ADS

Misc.
STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! A recent study shows that a majority of people struggle to pay for health coverage. Let us show you how much you can save. Call Now for a no-obligation quote: 1-833-928-5491 You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider. kpa-6-18

Misc.
AGING ROOF? NEW HOME-OWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-833-889-4107 Have zip code of property ready when calling! kpa-6-18

Misc.
WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home’s value! Call 24/7: 1-833-879-1451 Have zip code of service location ready when you call! kpa-6-18

Misc.
PROFESSIONAL LAWN SERVICE: Fertilization, weed control, seeding, aeration and mosquito control. Call now for a free quote. Ask about our first application special! 1-833-887-1317. kpa-6-18

Misc.
NEED NEW WINDOWS? Drafty rooms? Chipped or damaged frames? Need outside noise reduction? New, energy efficient windows may be the answer! Call for a consultation & FREE quote today. 1-833-880-0052 You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider. kpa-6-18

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ANTHONY WEATHER REPORT

Mon. Jun. 9.....86/59
Precipitation.....0.01"
Tue. Jun. 10....91/63
Wed. Jun. 11....85/66
Thu. Jun. 12....83/68
Fri. Jun. 13.....90/67
Sat. Jun. 14.....81/72
Sun. Jun. 15....85/65
Precipitation.....0.64"

SUBMITTED BY
RANDY PATTERSON
NWS CO-OP OBSERVER

KCAN ADS

For Sale
Place your 25-word classified in the Kansas Press Association and 135 more newspapers for only \$300/ week. Find employees, sell your home or your car. Call the Kansas Press Association @ 785-271-5304 today! kpa-6-18

Misc.
Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-833-641-6607. kpa-6-18

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We Buy Vintage Guitar’s! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D’Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. These brands only! Call for a quote: 1-833-641-6990. kpa-6-18

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Misc.
GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. Patriotic Hearts’ programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-833-485-0154. kpa-6-18

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620-842-5129

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published once in the Anthony Republican on June 18, 2025)

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN AND TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **July 15, 2025** the Harper County Planning Board will consider the following application at **7:00 p.m.** in the Meeting Room at the Harper County Senior Center, 821 Central St., Harper, Kansas:

Case No. SU-02-2025: Special use to establish a dog kennel on the stated property

Applicant: Jonathon Wilson & Crystal Waters

General Location: 1057 NE 80 Ave, Danville, KS, 67036

Legal Description: A tract of land beginning in the SE corner of the NE 1/4 of Section 31, Township 31, Range 05, Harper County, Kansas.

You may appear at this time either in person or by agent or attorney, if you so desire, and be heard on the matter. After hearing the views and wishes of all persons interested in the case, the Planning Board may close the hearing and consider a recommendation to the Governing Body, if approved under the Zoning Regulations of Harper County, Kansas, would be effectuated by resolution. The public hearing may be recessed and continued from time to time without further notice.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or items in this notice, please call (620) 842-3718 and refer to the above case number.

Dated this 11th day of June, 2025.

/s/
Brooke Mantey
Harper County Zoning Administrator

KCAN ADS

Misc.
INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don’t Accept the insurance company’s first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to cash settlements in the \$10,000’s. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-833-770-0339. kpa-6-18

GARAGE SALE

HUGE 2 FAMILY GARAGE SALE

618 West 17th
Harper, Kansas
June 19th - 21st
Thursday 4:30 - 8pm
Friday 8am - 5pm
Saturday 8am - 2:30pm
FACEBOOK UPDATES

Friendship Meals



Wednesday, June 18

Sloppy Joe - Potato Wedges
- Mixed Vegetables - Apricots
- Milk or Grape Juice

Thursday, June 19

JUNETEENTH - NO MEAL

Friday, June 20

Egg Salad Sandwich -
Carrots - Mixed Fruit -
Milk or Grape Juice

Monday, June 23

Smoked Turkey & Cheese
Sandwich - 3 Bean Salad -
Cantaloupe - Potato Chips
- Milk or Grape Juice

Tuesday, June 24

Goulash - Garden Salad -
Ambrosia Fruit Salad -
Garlic Bread Stick -
Milk or Grape Juice

Wednesday, June 25

Ham & Broccoli Casserole -
Corn - Peaches - Milk or
Grape Juice

☎ **620-842-3008** ☎

Serving Dine-In or Carry-Out
from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
in the Municipal Hall
Basement, Monday - Friday.
Please call if you would like to
volunteer and deliver meals.