



McPherson County News

~ Established 1889 ~

Serving McPherson County & Tryon, Nebraska

From The Tryon Graphic Files

TEN YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

Pictured was the freshmen class color guard during the McPherson County High School Patriot's Day Program. They were: Gabe Ryland, Angie Thompson, Ashley Bessmer, Samantha Kramer, Molly Hinkle, Dillon Daigler and Mara Seifer.

McPherson County will receive funds from FEMA, for an 8-mile stretch of county road that was badly damaged earlier this year, after President Bush declared a federal disaster area for six counties in Nebraska on August 29, 2007.

TWENTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 18, 1997

Attendants and Homecoming royalty were crowned at McPherson County High School. They were: Darla Arensdorf, Queen and Tyler Neal, King. Attendants were: Freshmen, Katrina Fisher and Joseph Cochran; Sophomores, Lacy Abel and Bandy Arensdorf; Juniors, Ericka Albrecht and Brandon Blake.

Services were held for lifelong resident of the Sandhills, Stanley Russell McKillip. He passed away September 9, 1997, at Whitman at the age of 69.

Jaron Snyder and Shannon Chandler of Paxton, are the parents of a son, Jaden Ray Snyder, born August 23, 1997.

THIRTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 17, 1987

Enrollment at MCHS for the '87-'88 school year is 34, down one student from last year. There are 11 seniors, seven juniors, eight sophomores and eight freshmen.

Theresa Black and Casey Connell were crowned Homecoming Royalty at

MCHS.

Clyta Baker was honored after her commencement in the nursing program at Mid-Plains, Sunday, with a reception.

FORTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 15, 1977

The 15th annual Oldsters' Party at Tryon, held September 11, 1977, was blessed with beautiful weather and a record turnout of 140 registered guests. Recognition was given to the oldest lady, Mrs. Grace Snyder, age 95, and the oldest man, Frank Owen, 91, both of North Platte. The longest married couple was Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Kugler Sr. of Ringgold who have been married for 60 years.

Harold Neal has been named general chairman for the Fall Festival at the Tryon United Methodist Church.

Teana Bullington got a blue ribbon for modeling the dress she had made in 4-H, at the State Fair.

Randy Houghtaling has moved back to Tryon to spend a couple of weeks with family and friends before going into the Marines.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 18, 1967

A victory dance was held Friday night in the Graphic building for the McPherson County High School and the Tryon Longhorns who beat Oconto, 18 to 0, in the football game played here Friday. It was the first victory for the Longhorns in some time.

The MYF car wash held at Miller Park Saturday afternoon and sponsored by Mrs. Carol Heuerman, turned out real successful as the girls had 10 cars to wash.

SIXTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 19, 1957

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gragg are the parents of a baby son born September 12, 1957. He has been named Jimmy Jo.

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert W. Portor of Columbia, Missouri are the parents of a baby girl born September 15, 1957. She has been named Marlene.

Sixty-four people spent a very enjoyable day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Fattig Sunday honoring Mr. and Mrs. Glen Gattig with a wedding dinner.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 18, 1947

At the Weaver sale last week on the John Chatterson place east of Ringgold, a large rattlesnake was killed just about the time the sale started. The snake was discovered and killed by one of the men in the sale crowd. Those who saw the reptile say it was a very large specimen, much larger than is commonly found here.

The Gibson family recently held a reunion at the Mary Neal home in Tryon, the first time the family had been together in thirty-five years. The afternoon of the reunion the six sisters and their brother drove to North Platte where they had a picture taken at the Brown Studio. Their picture was featured in this issue of the *Graphic*. Family consists of Mr. Wm. Gibson, Mullen; Mrs. Margaret Hazelbaker, Walla Walla, Washington; Mrs. Mary Neal, Tryon; Mrs. Agnes Thompson, LeRoy, Iowa; Mrs. Ella Bower, Proctor, Montana; Mrs. Anna LeLaCheur, Hot Springs, South Dakota; and Mrs. Sarah Haney, Tryon.



COURTESY PHOTO

Swain Finch of Custer County demonstrates in 1900 how he tried in vain to kill swarming grasshoppers in 1876. Photographer Solomon D. Butcher re-created the cloud of 'oppers by scratching them into the emulsion and adding others with ink.

Grasshoppers "Like a Blanket"

Pioneer lawyer Othman A. Abbott of Hall County was Nebraska's first lieutenant governor. In 1928 he recalled his experiences in early Nebraska, including the grasshopper plague which struck the state in 1874:

"There had been earlier plagues of grasshoppers in various parts of the state of Nebraska and in the adjoining states of Iowa and Kansas, but I first made their acquaintance in 1874 when they destroyed practically every green and growing thing in the vicinity of Grand Island. . . .

"They covered the ground almost like a blanket. They jumped to the right and left as you walked through them,—opening a pathway and closing in behind you as you passed. I had some

young celery plants in the garden that I was especially proud of and I covered them with some large pie-plant leaves in the morning. When I came home at noon the pie-plant leaves were eaten and the celery leaves were eaten—not a scrap of anything green remained. There was literally nothing left of them but little holes in the ground where they had stood. The grasshopper brigades also ate all the leaves on my little trees, leaving them as bare as in winter.

"The first day they came they ate the wheat in the shocks, stalks as well as grain. There was a great cornfield near the city in tassel with little ears forming and with the growth so rank that you could not see a rod into the field. Before nightfall the whole field was bare

of leaves, tassels, and ears. "The plague was widespread in the year 1874; collections were taken up in behalf of those who were left entirely destitute and a state relief society took charge of collecting supplies to help the sufferers in stricken regions. Most of the relief in Hall County was what went from neighbor to neighbor, but some relief supplies were sent in by the Federal government, principally bacon, lard, and corn meal. . . .

"The grasshoppers were traced as far east as the western counties of Iowa and Missouri. It has been very many years now since they gave up their visits to this country, but those who saw them in those early days will never forget what havoc those insignificant insects wrought because of their overwhelming numbers."

We love trees!

"He who plants a tree, plants a hope."

Lucy Larcom, *Plant a Tree*

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts have been planting hope since 1972. According to nrd-net.org since its inception, Nebraska's NRD Conservation Tree Program has assisted in planting 95 million trees and each year NRD's help landowners plant more than a million trees. This year the Upper Loup NRD assisted landowners in planting around 30,000 trees throughout the district.

Trees provide many benefits to landowners alike. Shelterbelts help protect property whether it be homes or livestock, from destructive elements such as wind and snow. Trees and shrubs also help to reduce heating and cooling costs, prevent soil erosion, and provide wildlife habitat.

The ULNRD provides many different tree services including machine planting trees and installing mulch to prevent weeds around newly planted trees. Hand plant trees can also be purchased from the ULNRD. The Upper Loup NRD also provides information about how to care for your newly planted trees. Some tree planting services may qualify for federal or state aided cost-share as well. Please contact the office at 308-645-2250 for more information. Most trees supplied from the ULNRD originate from the Bessey Nursery in Halsey so species are subject to vary from year to year.

Along with these services, acreage and residential land owners have the opportunity to participate in the Yard Enhancement Program through the Upper Loup NRD. Through this program landowners can apply to receive 50% cost share with a maximum of two trees and \$200 per year to purchase trees for their

yards. There are stipulations to this program including the plan must be inspected and approved by a ULNRD technician and trees must be purchased from a reputable nursery.

The Upper Loup NRD also has programs to reimburse family members that wish to plant a tree in

(Continued on page 12)

Aunt Bea's Senior Meals Lunch Menu

Monday, September 25 - Grilled chicken breast, scalloped potatoes and carrots
Tuesday, September 26 - Steakfingers, mashed potatoes and corn
Wednesday, September

27 - Meatloaf, baked potatoes and peas
Thursday, September 28 - Pork roast, pork dressing and green beans
Friday, September 29 - Chili soup with hamburger sandwich

Please join us in celebrating the life of
Cathy Sue (Pullen) Wittie
daughter of
Ed and Dee Pullen
who passed away

May 17, 2017 in Stephenville, TX.
This celebration of life will be held
at the VFW Club, 2300 E. 4th
North Platte, NE on
September 23, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.
Please come comfortable,
with a memory to share.
Lunch to follow.



Over The Hills

By J.R. Trumbull



Quote: "Don't mind criticism. If it is untrue, disregard it. If it is unfair, don't let it irritate you. If it is ignorant, smile. If it is justified, learn from it."

- Anonymous

Here are some points to ponder. I don't care for the use of the "s" word any more than I do the use of the "f" word, but in the case of the first line, it is acceptable.

Somebody stole all George Carlin's lines, or at least a few of them.

1. Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?
 2. Why is the third hand on a watch called the second hand?
 3. If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
 4. If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
 5. Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?
 6. Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
 7. Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
 - 8 . Why do "tug" boats push their barges?
- (Continued on page 11)

SANDHILLERS NEVER DIE

Real Sandhillers never truly die
As long as stories and memories abound.
Images, tales, an occasional poem
Help assure that their presence is found.

For one it may be stories told
Of chasing coyotes and that kind of thrills.
More than all, his love for Jesus,
Guitar and bluegrass gospel ringing over the hills.

For another it might be his horses,
True Morgans he rode over the plains.
Time spent at school board meetings
Trying to hold back on spending reins.

Another was a quiet, thinking guy,
One that never knew a stranger.
He'd greet you with a cup of coffee
And a greeting for the day, no danger.

There are far more I could mention-
Those who have served our land,
Each with a unique position,
A part of the Master's plan.

Each had their special place on earth,
A niche only they could fill.
None of us can replace them
And nobody ever will.

They will be with us in memory
As we remember through the years
And pass the stories down to others
Sometimes with laughter, sometimes tears.

Don't let those who have passed on
Depart from within our life,
Think of them as examples
As we live thru good times and strife.

J.R. Trumbull
2 July 2017