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NO. 43

Can you hear the children playing on Halloween?

LARRY HARDESTY

This past Thursday, Marcia Hora, Wanda (Main) Osnes, and I embarked on an adventure to find the location of the old Nesbit country school west of Stapleton. Wanda had attended the school as a Kindergartner. I remember the school, as Eddie Beckius occasionally would drive the school bus by it in the spring to pick up one of the Swanson brothers at the Harvey and Eunice Raynard place as my brother, sister, and I rode the bus into Stapleton for school. I am not sure why we drove by it to attend a school further away, but we did. As Wanda and I recall, the school stayed in session until about 1960.

I have it on good authority from a highly credible source (who for unknown reasons wishes to remain anonymous) that his cousin's wife's uncle has heard sounds coming from the area several times over the past few years. Strangely enough, it only seems to happen around the 31st of October, and only well into the night when there is a full moon. Now the school's location is a good distance from the nearest house and road. Therefore, the sounds are indistinct. My highly credible source described the sounds like noises made when children play.

Could it be the spirits of children of years ago with names like Bakewell, Barner, Burnside, Kemplin, McPherrin, Main, Opela and Raynard, who



attended the little country school?

This would be the time of year when the pupils at the school would begin to ratchet up their anticipation of the Halloween season by making images of black cats, witches hats, and quarter moons out of black construction paper to tape to the windows of the school house. From white construction paper they would make ghosts and skeletons

to dangle menacingly from the ceiling. With orange and black paper they would make chains to hang around the room - with flour paste sticking to their fingers. And, despite the teacher's sternest admonitions, a few would be caught licking the paste off their fingers or wiping it on the clothes of fellow students.

The coup de grace would come when

children, whose parents raised pumpkins, brought the orange globes to school for carving into jack-o-lanterns and placing in the school's windows. The children's creative license, no doubt, varied greatly based on their artistic talents and seriousness with which they addressed the task before them.

The seasonal excitement peaked, probably much to the relief of the teacher and parents alike, with the annual Halloween party that all the parents attended. It would have the usual costume party (all being made at home, of course), bobbing for apples, along with popcorn balls, and homemade candy—as if the children needed a sugar high to hoist further their already elated spirits. Usually this party served in lieu of the youngsters going from rural neighbor to rural neighbor in the dark of night and sometimes eluding their parents' watchful eyes.

The more enterprising teacher might organize a scavenger hunt in the school yard during the day before the party in an effort to channel the untamed energies of their wards. Is that what the "credible" source heard...the squeals of delight as the spirits of children past found a hidden treasure and howls of displeasure when a schoolmate beat someone to a prized object?

With permission and advice of Jim and Kristy Opela on whose land the

See *Children* Page 12

Special Stapleton Ties

It was like coming home for Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) president, Jenni Benson, as she made a visit and tour of Stapleton Public Schools, Thursday, October 25.

Benson said she spent a lot of time at the Parker farm located west of town. "Marilyn Parker was my dad's sister, so we came to see Harvey and Marilyn quite often," Benson commented. She took time out to take a picture of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church where she attended services during her time here.

"I always use Stapleton as an example when I am talking about schools," Benson said. "Stapleton just rolls off my tongue."

Benson was very impressed with the school system and sat in on science and history classes. She toured the school with Superintendent Gaffney and Principal Walker, and was pleased to see the implementation of the vocational ag program and an FFA Chapter.

Benson said one of the biggest challenges facing the NSEA is the lack of teachers, especially in rural areas.

Benson and Principal Walker agreed "we are going to have to "grow our own."



MARCIA HORA - THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

Jenni Benson, president of the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) reads "Sneetches" by Dr. Seuss to kindergartners in Miss Knust's classroom.

Benson brings a wide range of diverse experience and 30 years in education to her new position as NSEA president.

She took her first teaching job in Austin, TX, working in high-poverty schools and neighborhoods along the southern

border.

She returned to Lincoln in 1994 to be closer to family and began work with Lincoln Public Schools. Benson collaborated with LPS, the Malone Community Center, Community Learning Centers and United Way

to discuss how all students can succeed in school. The goals included exploring how the community can work together more effectively on behalf of all students.

Benson was elected to a three-year term as NSEA president in April 2017.

Write-In Candidate For McPherson County Sheriff

McPherson County has a write-in candidate for sheriff. Robert McFarland has filed an affidavit of intent seeking write-in votes for McPherson County Sheriff.

McFarland is a certified law enforcement officer with 18 years of experience, including six as a police chief in small communities. He is a graduate of North Platte High School and the University of Nebraska.

In addition, McFarland has over a decade of experience as an Emergency Medical Technician.

Former McPherson County Sheriff, Tim McConnell submitted his resignation as sheriff and emergency manager effective October 31, 2018. Citing health reasons for his resignation, McConnell accepted a position as Chief of Police at Wisner.

Even though he has resigned, McConnell's name will appear on the November 6 General Election Ballot.

McFarland is asking voters to mark the box and write-in Robert McFarland for McPherson County Sheriff.

Sample ballots for Logan and McPherson Counties were published in last week's issue. Voters are encouraged to take time and review these ballots before going to the polls.

Voters will also be deciding the fate of Proposed By Initiative Petition Measure #427. A vote "For" will amend Nebraska statutes to provide that the state shall amend its Medicaid state plan to expand eligibility. A vote "Against" will not cause Nebraska statutes to be amended.

Upper Loup approves budget

The Upper Loup Board of Directors adopted the budget for fiscal year 2018-19 on September 13, 2018. This year's budget calls for a property tax levy of .019 (1.9 cents per 100 dollars of property valuation). NRD's have the option to levy up to 4.5 cents per 100 dollars of valuation to aid in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities. With the help of grants and product sales, Upper Loup has been able to provide a wide variety of services. Less than half of the total budget (43%) is supported by tax dollars.

-- News Briefs --

McPherson Co. Blood Drive

McPherson County will host a blood drive, Friday, November 9, at the McPherson County Fair Building in Tryon. Collection will take place from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Contact Elaine Miller at 308-587-2446 for more information or to make an appointment.

Donors must be in good health and feeling well; must be at least 16 years of age in most states; and must weigh at least 110 pounds.

Special Veteran's Day Section

The Stapleton Enterprise/McPherson County News and Thomas County Herald will be publishing a special Veteran's Day supplement next week. We are sponsoring a coloring contest for students Preschool through 6th grade. The picture will be published in the supplement, along with special Veteran features and a Civil War crossword puzzle. If you would like to advertise in this section call 308-636-2444.

McPherson Co. News



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- Ascherl Graduates From State Patrol Academy

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- Village Of Gandy Public Notice
- Estate Of David E. Hora

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- Church News

Weather



DATE	HI	LOW	MT
16	50	15	0
17	67	32	0
18	66	33	0
19	68	35	0
20	68	35	0
21	63	35	0
22	77	36	0

No observations were made for the week of October 16 through October 22.

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