

4-H'ers compete in Rabbit project

By Karen Krien

The Grow and Show rabbit division is fairly new to county 4-H'ers and is gaining popularity each year.

Two 4-H'ers are selected to receive two Holland Miniature Lop rabbits each. This year, Grady Brunk and Caitlin Northrup each received two rabbits which they will be responsible for feeding, taking care of, keeping a record book and showing them at the Cheyenne County Fair on Aug. 6. They will also be on display with the other livestock.

The rabbit project is designed to be 4-H friendly, fun and a great learning experience as well as being affordable. Another plus of the projects is the fact that rabbits can be kept wherever the 4-H'er lives, whether it be the country or within the city limits.

The 4-H'ers needed to fill out an essay application and the two recipients were chosen from the applications.

Terri Orth, St. Francis, is the county-wide rabbit leader, and will be helping Grady and Caitlin with their rabbits which were given to them in June.

"When the kids are given their rabbits, they are cautioned not to pick them up by the ears, feed them an ounce of food per pound of rabbit, make sure they have water and to keep them cool as rabbits do not sweat," Mrs. Orth said.

She said that 4-H'ers are advised that, unless the rabbits are

kept in an air conditioned area, they should keep a 2-liter water bottle that has been frozen in the cage. Rabbits lay their ears over the bottle to keep cool.

During the fair, there is not an adequately cooled space to keep the rabbits so once again, the frozen water bottles are once again put to work.

The county Rabbit Committee comprised of Ted Partch, Doug Ross, Nick Ketzner and Mrs. Orth are working toward purchasing new rabbit cages for the fair. If plans work out, the rabbits will be housed in style during the stay at the fair.

Two years ago, there were only one or two rabbits at the fair but last year, there were 21 rabbits. So many, that parents were called to bring in cages so there would be enough.

The rabbits are judged by how easy they are handled.

"We tell the kids they should play with their rabbit like any pet and the more they are played with, the easier it is to handle them and this will show well during the time when they are judged," Mrs. Orth said.

The Holland Miniature Lop rabbits are selected because they have an easy disposition, they can be trained to use a litter box and put on a leash for a walk.

"The Show and Grow division has turned out to be a really good project and people seem to enjoy seeing the rabbits at the fair," she concluded.



THERE WAS PLENTY of cake and ice cream to serve all the visitors for Hulda Dorsch, Walt Roesner, Carol Brubaker, Verna Mueller and Joan Hatch, who celebrated July birthdays at the Senior Center. Photo courtesy of Kelly Basnett

Self-taught welder's work to be displayed

By Karen Krien

Tobe Zwegardt, St. Francis' historian as well as a self-taught welder, was notified over the weekend that his piece of sculpture will be displayed at the Grassroots Art Center at Lucas.

This year marks the centennial of the first flight of the Wright brothers and the Grassroots Art Center has curated the exhibit "Flights of Fancy." Mr. Zwegardt is one of 17 grassroots (self-taught) artists from across the state of Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin and Canada to provide sculptures, drawings and photographs that indicate the visual delight of fanciful flight.

The artists were to use their imagination with recycled parts to portray not only aircraft in flight but also man, animals and insects. This order was right down Mr. Zwegardt's alley! He has been creating art from recycled parts for years for most of his life.

Earlier in the year, the Grassroots Art Committee had taken his scrapbook filled with pictures of his work and he was then asked to submit an art piece. They would have taken his blue helicopter at the entrance of his drive which greets people traveling on U.S. 36. However, Mr. Zwegardt had another idea.

He studied a drawing of Wright's airplane and then began working on it.

"I'd work for awhile and then I would stop and think about what I was going to do next," he said.

He positioned the plane in a metal tree but he said there was something not quite right.

"I had forgot to put Orville in the plane," he said.

Orville was fashioned out of square-head nails and other parts and took the seat in the plane.

Mr. Zwegardt has created many pieces of art throughout the county with the most noticed pieces being the Cherry Creek Encampment site north of St. Francis on K-27 and the Seventh Cavalry Camp located north of Bird City on K-161. However, many people from all over the United States and abroad have smaller pieces he has made including his famous windmills, cactus, yucca and Indian/eagle dancer. All are created out of miscellaneous items including square-head nails, bolts, horse shoes and barbed wire, just to name a few.

His first piece of sculpture was of a windmill. About 35 years ago, his wife Irene was in a Denver hospital and he said that she really didn't appreciate flowers so he came home, went to work in his shop and made the windmill. When he took it to the hospital, the nurses, doctors and anyone else who came into the room commented on the windmill and wanted one.

"I came back to St. Francis and started making more," he said.

He let his creative juices run and started making different sculptures and items, making a name for himself as well as items to sell and give away.

Mr. Zwegardt said he watched and help his father, J.E. Zwegardt, who was a blacksmith. When Mr. Zwegardt first started putting odd pieces together to make a design, he didn't have a welder so he used solder. During World War II when it was impossible to buy welding equipment, he made his first welder out of a 32-volt light plant. Later, when he could afford it, he bought a welder and did welding for farmers and on oil well equipment.

Today, his shop is located by his home and has been set up with a small fire-proof table, low seat and the welder and equipment close by. The shop is filled with miscellaneous items and he said that he will probably never run out because people are always bringing him boxes of odd pieces which he digs through to find something for his next piece of art.

The exhibit at Lucas will be in place from Aug. 1 through Oct. 31. The art center will be open daily from 10 to 5 p.m. and, on Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. In October, the hours will shorten.

Mr. Zwegardt plans to go to Lucas on Saturday, Aug. 30, of Labor Day weekend when the Lucas community will continue the theme "Lucas Takes Flight" with a parade, speakers, exhibits, children's activities, talent show and a barbecue.



SELF-TAUGHT WELDER—Tobe Zwegardt works in his shop on one of his metal cowboys. Times staff photo by Karen Krien

For more information on the exhibit or activities, call 785-525-6118, or e-mail grassroots@wtciweb.com.

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Introducing

Jeffery Lawrence Canare was born on July 1 at the Balanga City Women's Hospital in the Bataan Province of the Philippine Islands. He is the son of Normita Dizon Canare (Balanga, Philippine's) and Lorenzo Canare of Bird City. Jeffery weighed in at 2.9 kilograms. Both mother and son are doing well.

Lorenzo is awaiting the completion of his naturalization as an American citizen. Once this process is finished Normita, who had worked as an educational insurance agent, and Jeffery will join the proud father here. Lorenzo looks forward to watching his son grow up in Bird City.



Canare

Book Review

Lost Moon

"America launched seven Apollo expeditions to land on the moon. Six of the efforts succeeded outstandingly. One failed. *Lost Moon* is the story of that disaster and the incredible heroism of the three astronauts who brought their crippled vehicle back to earth. This account - written by Jim Lovell, commander of the mission, and his talented co-author, Jeffery Kluger - captures the high drama of that unique event and is told in the vernacular of the men in the sky and on the ground who masterminded this triumph of hero-

ism, intellectual brilliance and raw courage. A thrilling story of a thrilling episode in the history of space exploration."

-James A. Michener
Author of Space



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