

# Resident celebrates 100th birthday this April 7th

By Margaret Bucholtz

Mildred Rogers is celebrating her 100th birthday on April 7.

When asked what she thought was the biggest changes in the last 100 years her answer was "I wouldn't even know where to begin. There have been so many."

Mildred Hatten was born around Tyler, Iowa, in 1904. She moved to Lincoln, Neb., where she met and married Aaron Angel on March 19, 1923. While in Lincoln she was a hair dresser and Mr. Angel ran a barbershop.

In 1926, Mr. Angel decided to move back to St. Francis and help his brother and father on their farm in his spare time. He opened a barber shop and Mrs. Angel continued to fix hair. There were no beauty shops in most towns in the area so Mr. Angel would drive her to other towns including Bird City and Benkelman where appointments would be set up and she generally gave permanents. She was a hair-dresser for about five years and then decided to open a restaurant.

She brought a restaurant business from Ma Quigley in downtown St. Francis. The building has since been torn down and the John Kite Law Office now sits in its place.

"A cup of coffee was a nickel and a hamburger was 10 cents. I doubt that you could find that price now," she said.



1920



2004

Mrs. Angel loved the restaurant business and especially enjoyed working with her waitresses. Most of the waitresses were girls who lived in the country and were boarding in town while they went to high school.

"The girls and I had fun working together," she said.

In fact, Mrs. Rogers said if she could get around better she would still be working in a restaurant. The Angels ran the cafe for about 35 years.

Mrs. Rogers said she remembered how it was in the Dust Bowl days.

"We would have to wipe the counters off again and again. Then before you could get the food out to

the customer the dust would have sifted in and you would have to wipe the counter off before you set the plate down," she said.

"Then the flood came and what a horrible site that was to see everything from buildings to horses and cattle rushing down the river."

After Mr. Angel died, Mildred married Glen Rogers in 1973.

"I have had a good, normal life and I am so glad to have lived this long," Mrs. Angel said.

She is looking forward to her 100th birthday party and being with her son Del and family including her four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren as all of them plan to be in St. Francis to help her celebrate the century mark.



**EIGHT-LEGGED CALF** born Thursday was quite the unusual happening for St. Francis. The mother of the calf belongs to Kelly Gienger and Perry Keller. *Times staff photo by Casey McCormick*

## Eight-legged calf born Thursday

By Casey McCormick

St. Francis saw the unusual with the birth of an eight-legged calf on Thursday. Local veterinarian, Dr. Judy Mallet-Baxter, performed the difficult pull but despite her efforts the animal did not live.

"I've seen a lot of unusual births but this is the very first eight-legged calf I've ever seen," Dr. Mallet-Baxter said.

Fortunately the mother survived

the ordeal.

"The mother's good," said Dr. Mallet-Baxter, "After the birth, she got up and walked away."

The unique calf was part of the herd owned by Kelly Gienger and Perry Keller. Dr. Mallet-Baxter believes that the animal should have been twins, however, "the embryos did not completely divide."

Dr. Mallet-Baxter has been a small and large animal veterinarian

in St. Francis for 13 years. She sees a disturbing decline in the numbers of calves that she has delivered during the past few years.

"There are not as many calves," she said, "people have sold cattle due to the drought."

Although she did not have scientific data to support her statement, she believes that calf births could be down by as much as 40 percent this year.

## Theater acquires platter

By Karen Krien

Those who have recently attended movies at the Cheyenne Theater may have been there when the film snapped and there was a 15 to 20 minute wait while the film was re-threaded.

Robert Grace, one of the members of the Cheyenne Theater Committee, reported that the film breakage was happening more and more. "It had become a reliability issue," he said.

Now all of that has changed!

Five members of the Theater Committee, Brent Rueb, Tim Burr, Deb Harper, Kelly Frewen and Bob Bixler, recently traveled to Tankersley Enterprises, Denver, to possibly take delivery of new "used" seats for the theater. The theater previously made a \$3,000 deposit to Bob Tankersley on these seats.

However, when the committee decided that it was more important to have a reliable movie experience than newer used seats, and instead purchased a Christie Model 3 platter, a large piece of equipment which moves the film to and from the projector. Phone consultations with trusted technicians confirmed that the Christie Model 3 was a reliable platter and that the committee was getting a good buy.

The next week, Mr. Tankersley's venerable installation technician, Jimmy Seay, came to St. Francis and installed the new platter. Bob Bixler, the Theater Committee president, went to work and quickly found a buyer for the old platter.

"We are looking forward to watching the entire movie without an interruption," Mr. Grace said.

In the meantime, the committee will continue to look for seats for the



**WHEN TRAVELING TO DENVER to purchase different theater seats, the theater board decided on a platter which will eliminate re-threading the film during shows. Bob Bixler demonstrates how the platter works.** *Times staff photo by Karen Krien*

theater. The theater was opened in 1950 and the seats are still the originals.

The committee will first decide whether good quality used seats will be installed or if new seats are the best option. The problem with new seats is that there is not enough money in the theater account to purchase them, so community donations would be necessary.

There have been several other improvements made at the theater including new floors in the bathroom. The committee has also con-

tracted for new foyer carpet and they hope that it will be installed before the showing of *The Passion of the Christ*.

The Cheyenne Theater is located on Main Street, St. Francis. *The Passion of the Christ* is scheduled for two weekends, April 2 through 4 and April 9 through 11. If the first weekend of the movie has a packed attendance, the board will consider having one or more matinees on the second weekend. If so, the matinee will be advertised on the theater marquee.

## Obituary

### Edith Iva (Daniels) Atkinson

Dec. 3, 1911 - March 24, 2004

Edith Iva (Daniels) Atkinson was born to Oliver Douglas Daniels and Hazel (Hunter) Daniels on a farm in the northwest corner of Cheyenne County, Kan., on Dec. 3, 1911. She died in St. Francis at the Good Samaritan Village on March 24, 2004.

She often rode her horse to attend country schools near her farm home and then boarded in St. Francis so she could attend St. Francis High School.

After graduating from high school she attended Kansas State College in Manhattan for one year. The Depression prevented her from continuing at Kansas State so she got a teacher's certificate and began a lifelong career in elementary education. She taught in numerous one-room schoolhouses in Cheyenne County, teaching in the last one in the county. She then taught in Bird City Grade School until retirement.

She taught for 37 years, pausing only for a few years when her children were small.

While teaching one-room schools, she was not only the teacher, but the janitor and secretary as well. Lacking any printing or duplicating equipment, she would be up late into the night making long-hand copies of the lessons and exams for all the different grades.

All her life she worked to get her education degree, driving all over the area to attend extension courses at night, and attending summer school in South Dakota and Colorado. Finally, in 1969, she proudly received her bachelor's degree from Colorado State College in Greeley.

She married Paul Kenneth Atkinson on Jan. 1, 1941, and they settled on a farm northwest of Bird City.

They had three children: Kenneth Daniels Atkinson, who died as an infant, Rexanna Jean Yust, now of

Olathe, and Dr. Donald Paul Atkinson of Sewickley, Pa.

In addition to her parents and infant son, she was preceded in death by her husband, Paul, in 1983; her brother Lawrence Daniels and sister Phoebe Albright.

She is survived by a brother, Rex Daniels of Haigler, Neb.; a sister Ardieth Michaels of Greeley; daughter Rexanna Yust of Olathe; son Donald and his wife Joann of Sewickley; grandchildren Connie Altis and husband Kevin of Olathe, Mark Atkinson of Ann Arbor, Mich., and Kristin Atkinson of Sewickley; as well as great-granddaughters Mikaela and Madison Altis of Olathe.

She loved Kansas, teaching, her pupils and her church.

Funeral services were held Saturday, March 27, at the Immanuel United Methodist Church, Bird City with Reverend Doug Mason officiating.

Casket bearers were Dave Flemming, Bradley Waters, Jon Waters, Gary Leach, Ernie Ketzner, Lonnie Willis.

Interment was in the Bird City Cemetery, Bird City.

Arrangements by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

## Mailbox News

Do you know what Abraham Lincoln, Harry Truman, hotel magnate Conrad Hilton, novelist William Faulkner, Boston tavern owner Richard Fairbanks and a 12-year-old girl in Sitka, Alaska, have in common? Give up? They all were United States postmasters.

If you go higher than local postmaster and include Postmaster General and Deputy Postmaster General, you can add Benjamin Franklin and Philadelphia department store founder John Wanamaker.

Although not as famous as some, Richard Fairbanks was postmaster in 1639 in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He was paid a penny for each letter he handled. And the 12-year-old Sitka postmaster was the youngest person ever to hold that office, she had the title; her father, a former postmaster, did the work.

Some postmasters went on to bigger things. Lincoln and Truman became United States Presidents and Faulkner won a Nobel Prize. Franklin was the first postmaster of Philadelphia in 1727 at age 31. On July 26, 1775, he was appointed Postmaster General. Franklin was also the Deputy Postmaster General of the Colonies. He was fired by the British because, among other things, he changed his free mailing privilege signature, or "frank", from "Free B. Franklin" to "B. Free Franklin."

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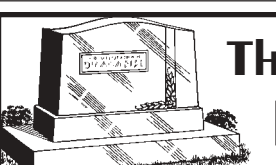


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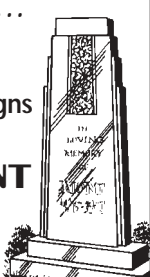
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It would be great to see you at Alumni this year! Even if you can't, or won't attend, it would be nice to hear from you! Contact: Janet Young Elliott; 9457 S. Univ. Blvd.; P.M.B. 225; Highlands Ranch, CO 80126-4976. Phone - 303-594-5937

## Business Directory

To list your business, call 785-332-3162.

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