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Obituaries

Helen Ruth Churchwell
June 5, 1922 - July 10, 2004
Helen Ruth Sawyer Churchwell was born June 5, 1922, in rural Cheyenne County, Kan., to Chester and Winifred Sawyer. She spent her growing-up years on the family farm north of Bird City. As a child, Helen Ruth attended grade school at the Brick School, and graduated from the Bird City Rural High School in 1941. She had one brother, Chester Kent, and one sister, Hollis Jean.

After graduating, Helen Ruth worked several jobs, including one as a telephone operator in Bird City. She later moved to Wichita where she worked for the Coleman Company. On a train trip home, she met a young man from Oklahoma named Roy Churchwell. They began corresponding, and were married June 16, 1945.

The couple spent their first several years in Bird City, where their first son, Stewart Thomas was born. But times were hard, and Roy and Helen Ruth moved to North Bend, Ore., where Roy got a job working in the sawmills. There, their second son, Roger Roy, was born in 1952, followed by his little brother, Eric Jon in 1960.

In 1963, Helen Ruth's husband Roy began working in construction and moved his family on the first of what would be many such moves over the next 10 years. This was an exciting time for the family, filled with new friends and experiences. But Bird City was still "home" and Helen Ruth would return there to her parents' farm during the summers bringing her young boys along with her.

After Roy's death in 1973, Helen Ruth returned for good to Bird City, along with her youngest son, Eric. She love cooking, and found a job as cook for the Cheylin schools. Later, she worked in the same capacity at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis.

Helen Ruth loved people and spent many happy hours with her friends and neighbors. But perhaps her greatest joy was her five grandchildren. She was delighted when her grandson, Chad, came to live with her in 1991. And after her next three grandchildren were born, she greatly enjoyed helping care for them.

Helen Ruth Churchwell died on July 10, 2004, after a lengthy illness. She was preceded in death by her parents, Chester and Winifred Sawyer; her sister, Hollis Jean; her

brother, Chester Kent, and her husband, Roy Churchwell.

Left behind to mourn her passing are her three sons: Stewart, of Challis, Idaho, Roger, and wife, Sharon, of Valley Springs, Calif.; and Eric, and wife, Janice, of Bird City. Also, her five grandchildren: Roy Churchwell, of Stillwater, Okla.; Chad Churchwell, and wife, Desirae, of Quinter; Vance, Whitney and Heath Churchwell, of Bird City, as well as many dear relatives and friends. She will be greatly missed.

Funeral services were held on July 10 at the Immanuel United Methodist Church, Bird City, with Reverend Morita Truman officiating.

Casket bearers were Keith Dorsch, Norman Dorsch, Stan Dorsch, Dean Smith, Scott Smith, Ned Smith.

Interment was in the Bird City Cemetery, Bird City.

Arrangements by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

Lewis Andrew Hunter Jr.
April 5, 1942 - June 12, 2004
Lewis Andrew Hunter Jr., age 62, died at his home on June 12, 2004, after a lengthy illness.

Mr. Hunter grew up in Bird City, Kan., and Woodrow, Colo. He moved to Texas in 1969. He worked in the airline industries for the largest part of his life.

Preceding him in death were his daughter, Wanda Kay and his grandparents, Lester and Mary Hoyt.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Kathleen Hunter; son, Leroy Hunter and wife, Faleen; daughters, Teresa Schmidt and husband, Wesley, Donna Krupa and husband, Kevin; grandchildren, Darian Hunter, Charis Lord and Michael Burright; great-grandchild, Joshua Lord; parents, Lewis Hunter Sr., and Josephine Harriet; sisters, Lenna Weisenhorn and husband, Pete; Lavonda Brown and husband, Bud; brother, Gary Hunter and wife, Kay and son, Nicholas; and uncle, Francis Hoyt of Bird City.

Mr. Hunter will be missed by all; his loyalty, hard work, and good cheer brought many friends into the lives of all who knew and loved him.

Funeral services were held June 16 at Rosewood Funeral Chapel. Pallbearers were Leroy Hunter,



Hunter

Wesley Schmidt, Kevin Krupa, Van Andrew, Elton Sanders, Jim McCarthy.

Michael Burright was an honorary pallbearer.

Interment was at Rosewood Memorial Park, Humble, Texas.

Carol Irene Brubaker
July 11, 1925 - July 8, 2004
Carol Irene (Deeds) Brubaker was born to Ray and Elsie (Eggers) Deeds in their home south of Bird City, Kan. She married Robert Brubaker Feb. 26, 1947. He survives. She died July 8, 2004, in a Denver hospital. She would have celebrated her 29th birthday for the 50th time on Sunday, July 11.

Carol loved the wide-open spaces of northwest Kansas. She took pride in her family, her community and her country. A homemaker and a farmer, she committed her life to her family, the land and to God.

She is survived by her husband Robert of Bird City. She leaves behind her children: Marilyn Miller and husband Bob of Fort Worth; Jane Perkins and husband Roger, Hillsboro; Gwen Houston, Hays; Charlene Holzmeister and husband Ivan, Hays; Fred Brubaker and wife Susan, Hutchinson; and Gary Brubaker and wife Jane, Bird City.

Carol also leaves to mourn her grandchildren: Matt and Marisa Miller, Darci Perkins, Scott and Carrie Perkins, Rob and Susan Perkins, Nathan Houston, John Houston, Anne Houston, Christopher Brubaker, Marisa Brubaker and Jacob Brubaker. She was blessed with one great-grandson, Hunter Perkins.

She was step grandmother to: Chara Kemerling, Adele Holzmeister, Brock Holzmeister and Grayson Albert.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents, and two brothers, Harold Deeds and Donald Deeds.

Two brothers, Wayne Deeds and Ed Deeds, and her sister Lorraine Brethower survive.

For most of her adult life, she actively participated in a variety of community-based organizations. She was currently active in Home Circle and American Legion Auxiliary.

Carol attended Fort Hays State University for two years following high school graduation. She was member of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority.

When asked how she would like to be remembered, she replied: "As an American citizen who believed in God; was graced with children and grandchildren, and a great-

grandson."

Carol will be missed for her community work, her unique and creative approach to life, and for her sense of humor.

The funeral service was held July 12, at the Immanuel United Methodist Church, Bird City, with Rev. William Miller officiating. Scripture readings were done by Carol's children Marilyn, Fred and Jane. Granddaughter Darci Perkins gave the family reflections.

Casket bearers were her grandsons.

A private family interment was held in the Bird City Cemetery. Knodel Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Elizabeth Estella Geyer
Aug. 28, 1925 - July 19, 2004
Elizabeth Estella "Dolly" Geyer, 78, died on Monday, July 19, 2004, at Wichita County Hospital in Leoti, Kan. She was born Aug. 28, 1925, at Marienthal, the daughter of Anthony and Cecilia Margaret Baier Baker.

She was a homemaker and a lifetime Wichita County resident.

Elizabeth was a member of the St. Mary Catholic Church Altar Society and a former Wichita County 4-H leader.

On Feb. 11, 1947, she married Elmer R. Geyer at Marienthal. He died Oct. 20, 1996, at Leoti.

Survivors include three sons, Leo, Danny and Myron, all of Leoti; five daughters, Donna Wright of Bird City, Esther Johnston of Garden City; Polly Witt and Bonnie Holopirek, both of Hesston, and Brenda Billings of Lawrence; three brothers, Joseph Baker of Haddam, Louis Baker of Marienthal and Bernard Baker of Colby; seven sisters, Bernadine Pahls of Cawker City and Marquerite Zellner, Florence Zellner, Mary Ann Winter, Celine Wimmer, Imelda Smith and Inella Scheffe, all of Marienthal; 25 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 22, at St. Mary Catholic Church, Marienthal. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, July 23, at St. Mary Catholic Church. Father Benjamin Martin will be officiating.

Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Marienthal.

Friends may call from noon to 8 p.m. on Wednesday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday at Price & Sons Funeral Home, Leoti.

Memorials may be given to the church or Wichita County Health Center in care of the funeral home.

McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

Thresher Show entertainment
Kim Richardson, son of Beverly Higgins, grew up in the McDonald community and graduated from McDonald High School. He will be returning to the area to provide entertainment at the Thresher Show in Bird City. His five-piece band "Dean Dickson and D Turkey Snorts" will be playing on Saturday evening during the time the McDonald Lions are serving their barbecue supper. They play a variety of music such as gospel, western, patriotic and the 50s and 60s.

Antholz reunion planned
The Antholz family will hold their second family reunion in Beatrice, Neb., the weekend of July 24 and 25.

Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison visited in St. Francis on Sunday with Viola Jones, Irene Kehlbeck and Alvin and Marie Holzwarth.

Mildred and Sue Heinbigner of Culbertson, Neb., were Friday supper guests of Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson.

Bud and Helen Frisbie and Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson were Thursday evening visitors of Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

Lynn and Rita Officer entertained on Sunday with a birthday dinner honoring Ratha Lea Loker. Guests were Ratha, Lea, Eunice Officer, Bud and Helen Frisbie and Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

On Friday, Joan Tongish and Vivian Curry were guests of Doug and Mary Tongish in Goodland to celebrate Mikayla Cody's seventh birthday.

Russ and Evelyn Rooker of Washington state were guests of Vance and Betty Lewis last weekend.

Ray and Marlene Johnson spent last weekend in Moundridge with the Dave Johnson family. They watched their granddaughter, Megan Johnson, play softball and their grandson, Jeremy Johnson, was the catcher on a baseball team which won the tournament. Enroute home on Tuesday they visited Vernon and Roberta Davis in Kanopolis.

McDonald has a new resident and a future businessman. Mark McDowell moved from Grand Junction, Colo., in May. He purchased the former Marian Hallagin home, and has been remodeling it. His plans are to establish a business "Ace Construction, Always a Fair Deal." He will do construction work of any type, plumbing, electrical and cement work. He is presently trying to find a building on Rawlins Ave for his business and to have a home base for carpet cleaning business of Johnene Cheney. His phone is 538-2526. Mark wants to make McDonald his home, and to become a part of the community.

County firemen received relief fun money from Insurance fund

The Kansas Insurance Commission, Sandy Praeger has announced that Cheyenne County Firemen will be receiving a total of \$19,067 out of the Firefighters Relief Fund.

In 2003, Kansas firefighters responded to 158,000 calls. Unfortunately, one firefighter was killed in the line of duty and 236 firefighters had injuries. Every year, the Kansas Insurance Department administers the benefits for the Kansas Firefighters Relief Fund. This account is used to assist firefighters and their families when accidents or death occur in the line of duty.

This year, the fund has generated \$8.3 million that will be distributed

to 582 Firefighter Relief Associations statewide.

"I know that all Kansans sincerely appreciate the sacrifices these 12,500 volunteers and 2,800 career firefighters make everyday to protect everyone who lives in this great state," said Commissioner Praeger.

The Kansas Firefighters Relief Fund is generated by a 2 percent tax on the fire and lightning insurance premiums paid in the state for the previous calendar year. This year's distribution represents an increase of \$900,000 from last year's figures.

Last year, the Firefighters relief Association provided \$1.36 million

for relief benefits to firefighters and \$555,000 in benefits to beneficiaries. The Firefighters Relief Association also used fund money to pay \$5.9 million in insurance premiums, \$176,000 for annuities for volunteers and \$75,000 for pensions.

The majority of the funds are distributed to the 582 Firefighters Relief Associations throughout the state and is based on a formula established by the legislature according to population and valuation of the area served by the fire departments. Of the overall distribution, \$8 million will be distributed to local associations.

Cheyenne County received \$19,067 with the Bird City Fire Department receiving \$4,899; the Cheyenne County Rural Fire Department, \$6,809; and the St. Francis Fire Department, \$7,367.

In the surrounding counties, Rawlins County received \$15,674 and Sherman County received \$27,246.

A total of 16,500 fires were reported in Kansas in 2003 with losses estimated at \$82.5 million.

Ponder This

There was a very rich and self-ish man. He had many servants and lived in a very large house.

One day he was walking in his fine garden when he saw a very odd-looking man. This man was not only in his garden, he was floating above it!

The rich man asked the odd man, "Who are you and why are you in my garden?"

The man replied, "I am a genie and I can grant you one wish."

The rich man pondered this. He already had a lot of money and everything he could possibly want. Finally after much consideration, he answered, "I want to know how many people on this world are thinking about me."

The genie answered quickly, "One."

"ONE?" The man was so curious he grabbed the genie, shook him and pleaded "You must grant me one more wish!"

When the genie agreed, the man asked, "Who is the one person?"

The genie cackled and said "The person who is thinking of you my son, is you." With this, the genie disappeared and left the rich man in deep thought.

Bird City News

Nicole Smith returned home to Vancouver, Wash., after a week long visit with her grandparents, Dean and Joan Smith and other family.

Corporal Jason Smith's Marine

unit went ashore in Kuwait recently, on his way to his second tour of duty in Iraq. In a phone conversation to his family he told of desert temperatures reaching 134 degrees.