

Wheeler mayor remains same for at least one more year

By Karen Krien

There were no ballots and no real show of hands but Wheeler's mayor will remain the same.

Fred Magley really wanted to hand the title and duties over to Harvey Neitzel but the mayor who proceeded Mayor Magley, Don Williams said he had served in the position for 10 years and it was "only fitting that Mayor Magley continued for at least one more year."

The annual Wheeler Thanksgiving meeting was held at Captain Hook's Fine Dining Friday evening. The restaurant was filled with laughter, talk and a Thanksgiving menu of turkey, roast beef and all the trimmings. Following the meal, Mayor Magley took over the meeting, welcoming everyone including Bill and Veda Leach and Swede and Elberta Calnon.

The entertainment of the evening included several people reciting cowboy poetry. Helene Landenberger told about "The Old Screen Door, Mayor Magley told about "The Little Folk" and "50 cents;" and Ernie Ketzner talked about the "The Worst Day In My Life." Gerald Wright told about his visits to the Amish communities in Pennsylvania and Ohio where he delivers hay.

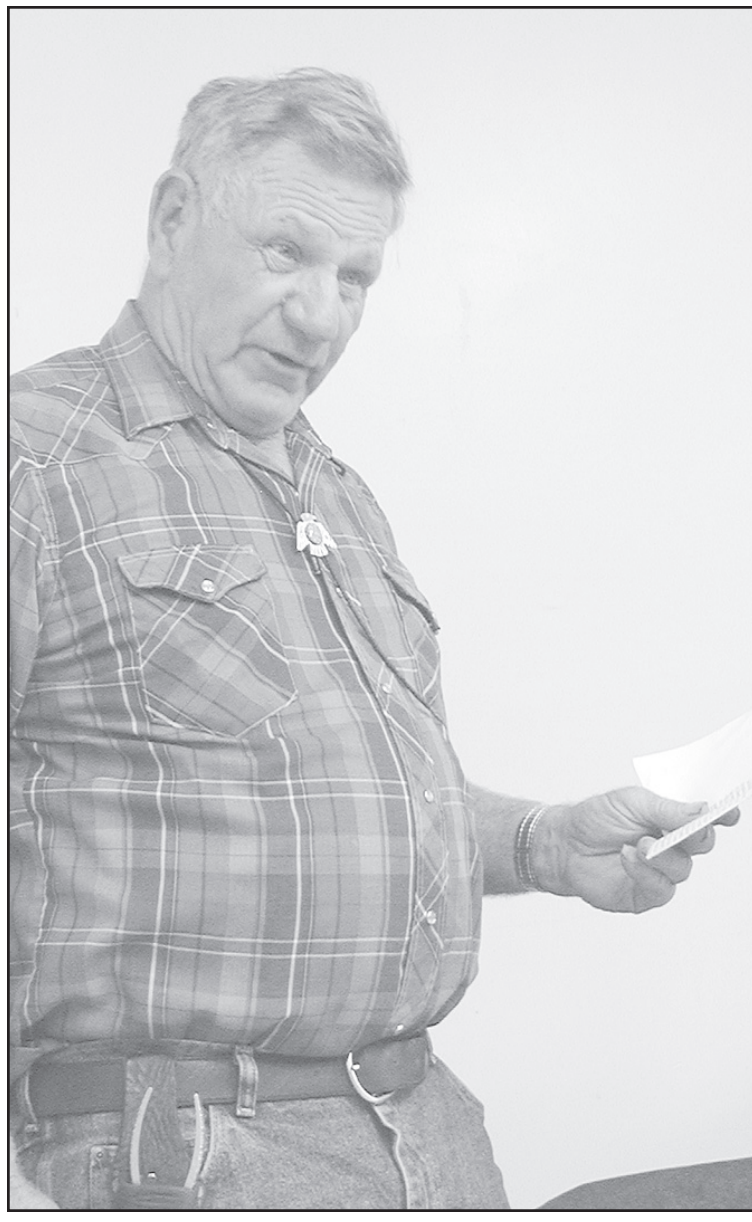
Since Mayor Magley was a busy person, he had made a list of positions and people were asked to sign up. The list (all in fun) included: Harvey Neitzel, Attorney at Law; Don Williams, treasurer; Gary Leach, consumer confidant; Hurb Graves, clerk of the lunch bunch; Roland Roelfs, cemetery sentinel; Gary Leach and Lex Landenberger, corn counter; Ray Lee and Mayor Magley, partial marshal; Fred Stasser and Marsha Magley, ice cream lush; Jim Boland, airport patrolman, just to name a few.

At this point, Mayor Magley said there had been an airport just west of Wheeler on land which belongs to the Moberly's. One of its frequent fliers coming in was Victor Follett.

Mrs. Magley and Ms. Landenberger took over the meeting, presenting copies of the "Wheeler History" pamphlet. It was noted that Wheeler, unlike many other of the small communities, is still on the map. When the small city was platted, it stretched south beyond U.S. 36.

Check the side story for some of the Wheeler trivia taken from the pamphlet.

Not in the pamphlet was a short story told by Gerald Wright. He said in his younger days, he had been on his way to Goodland and had stopped by the Wheeler Cafe and Station (where Hook's is now). There was a game machine which he described as a type of bowling game but



WHEELER MAYOR, Fred Magley presided over the meeting held at Captain Hook's Fine Dining in Wheeler Friday evening. He also entertained the audience with several poems.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



Gerald Wright



Helene Langenberger

that was about all he saw. However, later that evening, he came upon the Wheeler junction and there were cops everywhere. Little did he know that there was a gambling and slot machine operation going on in the back room and he had arrived just in time to see it being raided.

Mr. Wright said he had a crutch which had been made in McDonald, however, he did not know there had ever been a manufacturer who had made crutches. No one present seemed

to know anything about it either. He had mentioned there was a phone number stamped in the crutch. It was suggested he call the phone number and he laughed, saying that the phone number consisted of only two numbers.

The Wheeler Thanksgiving meeting is held each year, generally the Friday before Thanksgiving. It is basically for people who lived or are now living in and around the Wheeler area however, anyone is welcome.



JUDY DANKENBRING pays Pam Hook for the meal she enjoy at the Wheeler meeting held at Captain Hook's.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Wheeler History pamphlet distributed at the meeting

The following information was taken from the "Wheeler History" pamphlet compiled by Marsha Magley and Helene Landenberger.

Bill Leach and others remember there being a filling station operated by Clyde Boersma, on the south side of the highway about straight south of the old Nipps Motel. He recalls the very hot summer weather and the welcome shade that the station with its colonnades provided and then the (nickel) bottles of delicious ice-cold orange (and other flavors of) soda pop that could be had in the nifty machine where you had to slide the bottle along the slot to the one end to get it out. He also remembers the fact that he did not know how to drink the "fizzy" beverage — "It went up your nose!"

Another memory he has is of a prize fight (wrestling match) on the main street (Kansas Ave.) of Wheeler, it front of Dutch Fitchner's garage. This occurred in the mid to latter 30s and it was between Rankin Woods, (just a big stout farmer) and Pat Little. Pat had some Circus training and he was wearing a wrestling suit. When it was over Lou Waters, Brand's grandpa handed the winner \$5. A lot of money in those days. Bill said there was a big crowd there that day on the main thoroughfare of the big town of Wheeler.

Fred Magley has of Wheeler is that it had a depot about half the length of a boxcar with a sliding glass window that faced the south. He remembers the telegraph rattling away as his dad ordered a shipping

tag to ship a 5-gallon can of cream to Orleans, Neb. Also that the Windmill by the stockyards had a wooden wheel.

Rose Lawless was full of lore pertaining to early day events in Cheyenne County. One particular story she related is here presented: It was 1888, and into the very early hours of a morning. A young Lawless cousin was visiting from Oklahoma.

A horse rider approached the Lawless house southwest of Bird City calling "Quick, Will! Bring your rifle and come on! The men from over west are after the county papers, and there's going to be trouble!" William and his cousin she waited for their return. As the time passed, she grew ever more fearful, and soon was in tears with worry.

At last, well into the night, William and the cousin came home un-

hurt. They reported that the county papers were safe and credited an unnamed man for claming the fracas. This as yet unidentified man, apparently an influential person, had taken a stand amidst the uproar. He told the crowds gathered that county papers were not worth the cost of even one man's life, and that the matter had to be settled legally. He said, "Now no one has been killed, and I am going to mount and ride away from here. If any man doesn't agree with me, I guess he will have to shoot me in the back."

The above article about Mrs. Lawless was taken from the *Cheyenne County Democrat*, Bird City, Nov. 17, 1888.

For more information about Wheeler and the Wheeler History pamphlet, talk to Mrs. Magley and Ms. Landenberger.

Thanksgiving Trivia

• The average age of a Mayflower passenger was 32. The oldest Mayflower

passenger, James Chilton, was 64. Only five of the 104 Mayflower passengers were over 50—and only fourteen Mayflower passengers were over 40. About 60 passengers were between 20 and 40 years old. At least 30 passengers were under the age of 17.

As for a gender breakdown, there were about 51 men, 22 boys, 20 women, and 11 girls. The oldest

Mayflower passenger still alive to partake in the first Thanksgiving was William Brewster, at the age of 54.

• The Pilgrims had the "first" Thanksgiving, but it was never made into an annual event. When William Bradford's History Of Plymouth Plantation was rediscovered in 1854, it brought a lot of interest and attention to the Pilgrims history. Encouraged by the lobbying of Mrs. Sarah Josepha Hale, President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863.

MONDAY
Dec. 6, 2004

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

10:30 a.m. CT

Auction Location: At each residence beginning at 213 W. Jackson, St. Francis, 217 W. Jackson, St. Francis, and 517 S. Quincy, St. Francis, Kansas. In case of incimate weather, auction will be conducted at Western Auction & Real Estate Auction Pavilion

LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS: 213 W. Jackson, St. Francis, Kansas: Lots Seven, Eight, and the West half of Lot Six, Block Nineteen in the Original Town now City of St. Francis, Kansas.

217 W. Jackson, St. Francis, Kansas: Lots Nine and the East Eleven feet of Lot Ten, Block Nineteen in the Original Town now City of St. Francis, Kansas.

517 S. Quincy, St. Francis, Kansas: Lots Nine and Ten, Block Ten in the Park Hill Addition to the City of St. Francis, Kansas.

MANNER OF SALE: Real Estate will be auctioned in three individual tracts and not in any combination, with the highest acceptable bid representing the sales price.

TERMS: 20% down day of sale, or a minimum of \$1,000.00 per tract, which ever is more, with the balance due at closing, on or before December 20, 2004. Personal or corporate checks are acceptable for the down payment with the final payment to be in certified funds. Bidding is not contingent upon survey, inspection, appraisal, or financing. Financing, if necessary needs to be arranged and approved prior to the auction. Properties will be sold in their present condition; with no warranties and/or guarantees. Announcements made day of sale shall take precedence over printed material.

ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS: Each successful bidder will be required to enter into a Western Auction & Real Estate, LLC contract to Buy and Sell Real Estate immediately following the auction. Copies of these contracts will be available for review prior to the sale.

EVIDENCE OF TITLE: Sellers shall provide title insurance to the Buyer(s) in the amount of the purchase price with the premium to be paid one half by the Buyer(s) and one half buy the Sellers. Title insurance shall be provided on sale day.

REAL ESTATE TAXES: Sellers shall pay all of 2003 and prior years real estate taxes. The real estate taxes for 2004 will be prorated to the date of closing.

POSSESSION: Possession of each tract shall transfer to Buyer(s) at closing.

INSPECTIONS: Each potential bidder is responsible for conducting their own independent inspections & due diligence concerning pertinent facts about the property. Neither Sellers nor Western Auction & Real Estate, LLC and its agents are making any warranties about the property, either expressed or implied.

EASEMENTS:

The sale is subject to all rights-of-way and easements, whether recorded or not.

AGENCY: Western Auction & Real Estate, LLC and its agents are Exclusive Agents of the Sellers and will not be agents for the Buyer(s). The information contained here-in, while not guaranteed, is from sources believed reliable. Buyer(s) shall satisfy themselves with information they deem important.



213 W. Jackson, St. Francis
2004 Taxes \$210.55
672 main floor sq. ft.
2 Bedrooms
Full Bath
Laundry on main level
Unfinished Basement



217 W. Jackson, St. Francis
2004 Taxes - \$143.12
704 sq. ft.
Single Bedroom
Laundry
Single Level
Single Car Garage



517 S. Quincy, St. Francis
2004 Taxes - \$249.56
1,040 sq. ft.
3 Bedrooms
1 3/4 Bath
Fenced Backyard
2 Car Garage w/metal roof

For a complete list of properties check our website @ www.westernauctionandrealestate.com

Western
Auction & Real Estate LLC

Skip Petersen, Sales Agent & Auctioneer ~ 785.332.2368
Jeff Raile, Personal Property Auctioneer ~ 785.332.8951
Robin A. Witzel, Assoc. Broker, Appraiser & Auctioneer ~ 785.332.3765
Brett Petersen, Personal Property Auctioneer
W. Hwy. 36 ~ P.O. Box 928
St. Francis, Kansas 67756 ~ 785.332.8990
Betty L. Petersen, Broker & Appraiser

Contact Auction firm for appointments to view properties.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK and BANKWEST OF KANSAS, Sellers

When you're driving on US 36 or 75 between November 15th and 24th, you'd better obey the law.

Don't ignore this warning.

"Drive carefully. We're strictly enforcing the law."

Law enforcement officers all across Kansas are united in an unprecedented crackdown on drivers who break the law. And you're part of the effort—like it or not. We're especially watching for people who aren't wearing their seat belts. So, if you get pulled over for a traffic violation and are not wearing your seat belt, you aren't going to get just one ticket—you're going to get two! I know you may not like it, but enforcing the law is my job. And I'd rather see you angry than dead.

Click it. Or ticket.
It's Kansas Law.