By Casey McCormick

Some historians have referred to President Gerald R. Ford as the "accidental president." Granted it took the exit of both Spiro Agnew and Richard Nixon for Ford to become an unelected president. But his timing was anything but an accident.

I see a parallel between Ford's experience in World War II and when he came to the office.

Ford enlisted in the Naval Reserve at the onset of the war. He had made the rank of Lieutenant when he was assigned to the light aircraft carrier U.S.S. Monterey in May of 1943. His ship participated in many of the pivotal battles in the South Pacific Theater.

The most perilous point of Ford's and the Monterey's existence came during the typhoon of Dec. 18-19, 1944. The Third Fleet, commanded by Admiral "Bull" Halsey, lost three destroyers and over 800 men during the storm. Aboard the Monterey, a fire started when several planes broke from their ties and slammed into each other.

On the morning of Dec. 18 Ford left his battle station on the bridge. As he did the ship pitched 25 degrees, sending the officer across the deck. He managed to catch the twoinch metal edge of the ship which allowed him to roll and twisted into the catwalk below, narrowly avoiding going overboard.

When Ford became president our country was in the middle of another terrible storm. The United States was mired in an unpopular war in Vietnam. Racial tensions sparked riots in several cities. Assassinations had taken a president, his brother and Dr. Martin Luther King. In this atmosphere the Watergate scandal further eroded trust in our govern-

Into this tempest came President Ford. He brought healing and dignity to the Whitehouse and helped steer a new course for our nation. He was the leader that we needed at a low point in American history.

On Tuesday, Dec. 26, the 38th President of the United States died

For the Record

Nov. 6, 2006: Criminal damage was reported by Bradley Waters. A Masterlock padlock was damaged on Co. Rd. P and Co. Rd 21,

Nov. 14: A black 2000 Freightliner driven by Robert Michael, Des Moines, Iowa, and registered to MCT Transportation was westbound on US 36 when it turned north onto College St. hitting a stop sign on the median.

Nov. 14: Criminal damage to property. A door (value \$50) belonging to Paula and Doug Austin was damaged.

Nov. 14: Felony theft of threestrand copper wire (value \$3,000) at Co. Rd. 24 and Co. Rd. U was reported by Dan Sowers, Bird City.

Nov. 16: KDM Construction, Gilbert, LA employee Andy Patton reported the theft of two Green Lee Volt Meters (value \$920) and a Rotation Meter (value \$600) from Rd. 7 and Rd. M, St.

Nov. 18: Felony criminal damage was reported by Anita Amack as a glass entry door (value \$1,000) and a glass storm door (value \$500) at Park Hill Restaurant was damaged.

Nov. 23: Bird City Fire Department reported the burglary of a building not used as a dwelling.

Nov. 23: Barry Priest reported a burglary of a building not used as a dwelling a Rd. 15 and Rd. Y.

Nov. 25: Criminal damage to property was reported at 529 E. Spencer St., St. Francis. Dawn Lauer reported an inflatable Santa Lawn Ornament (value \$250) had been damaged.

reported by Barbara Antholz at 605 Bird Ave., Bird City.

Dec. 21: Criminal trespass was surance 21-31. reported by Amy Hackney at 209 N. Rich Ave., Bird City

Dec. 11: City of Bird City reported the theft of two magnetic signs (value \$68).

Dec. 19: A 1992 Ford driven by Kenneth Gotfrey was halfway backed out of a parking space on Washington St. when a 1988 Horinek 566, Erica Harlan 565.

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Chrysler New Yorker driven by Wilmot Klie, was traveling west and did not see the Ford and struck it. Dec. 21: A 2006 Ford Focus

driven by Sara Miller dropped a drivers side passenger off leaving a door open. Going southbound on College St., Miller pulled over to the side of road to shut the door and a Yamaha cycle driven by Seth Swihart, registered to Brett Poling, was going southbound and struck the door. Dec. 22: Theft of three bikes (val-

ued at \$125) was reported by Trevor Reed at 118 W. Washington St., St.

Bowling News

Wednesday Afternoon **Coffee 12-27**

Team standings: Windmill Restaurant 41-15, Kathy's Cater Cats 35-21, Sunshine Girls 31-29, Kale's Girls 29.5-26.5, Lodge Sleepers

High game (scratch): Pat Rose 160, Janice Krien 152, Linda Query 148; (handicap): Karen McVey 217, Carol Peterson 213, Janice Krien

High series (scratch): Rose 445. Krien 422, McVey 380; (handicap): McVey 599, Krien 572, Peterson

Wednesday Night **Bowling 12-27**

Team standings: 2001 Electronics 28-24, First National Bank 27-25, Grace Flying Service 27-21, Nov. 29: A criminal threat was Haigler One 26-26, Haigler Two 26-22, Krien Steel Buildings 25-27, Fearless 4 Some 23-29, Neitzel In-

> High game (scratch): Alan Rose 210, Mike Blecha 203, Bob Lippert 201; (handicap): Peggy Horinek 215, Linda Yonkey 210, Lynne Ferguson 202.

High series (scratch): Lippert 541, Blecha 531, Wayne Mahon the American Legion. 494; (handicap): Yonkey 619,

The Bird City Times

(USPS 056-720)

Serving the communities of Bird City and McDonald

Community Club

Bird City

Bird City Community Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 8 at the senior center. Open house rescheduled

The family of Lucille Price is holding a celebration from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 7, at the United Methodist Church, to help her celebrate her 85th birthday. You are welcome to attend. The family requests no gifts, please. This open house was rescheduled

due to the snow storm.

Death notice

Otto Lillich, Bird City, died Dec. 26, 2006, at the Regional Medical Center in Goodland. He was born Jan. 28, 1920. Otto lived most of his life as a farmer in the Bird City area. His only surviving sibling is Adelina Walter. Funeral services

Funeral Services

Funeral services for Bruce D. Bierig, 70, St. Francis, will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 8, at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis. Obituary on Page 5.

90th birthday celebration The family of Amelia Meyer is

holding an open house to help her celebrate her 90th birthday from 2 to 4 p.m. mountain time on Sunday at the Immanual Lutheran church near Bethune, Colo. If you are unable to attend mail cards to her at 40460 County road E.E. Bethune, CO 80805. **Conference set**

Bulletin Board

United States Department of Agriculture Energy Conference on renewable energy and energy efficiency has been set for Jan. 30-31 in Manhattan. Go www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks or call 332-3508 for more information.

Historical Society

The Cheyenne County Historical Society will hold an installation of officers at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. Cheyenne County

Commissioners

The Cheyenne County Commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 8 to swear in new county commissioner Ernie Ketzner in the commissioners' room in the courthouse in St. Francis. The regular meeting

Fair Board

will hold its regular monthly meet- pickup. Please bring to front door of ing at 7 p.m. tonight (Thursday) at Herald. the commissioner's room at the courthouse. Skateboard park

meeting

There will be a skateboard park planning meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 4, at Zero's in St. Francis. Everyone is welcome to

Veterans' Affairs Representative

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in St. Francis at 9:30 a.m. the first and third Thursdays of every month at the County Clerk's office in the courthouse to assist veterans and their dependents with VA claims

If you are unable to contact Ms. Tubbs in St. Francis, you may contact the office in Colby any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. That phone number is 785-462-3572 Bicycles still being collected

The Lions Club is still collecting bicycles to take to the Norton Correctional facility to be repair. The bicycles made be taken to the Saint The Cheyenne County Fair Board Francis Herald office for later

Recovery Today/Narcotics

Anonymous

Recovery Today group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. on Sunday nights at the United Methodist Educational Building. Call (785) 332-6542 or 8607 for more

Sainty Serenity Seekers/ **Alcoholics Anonymous**

Sainty Serenity Seekers open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous is held at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday evening at the United Methodist Education Building at 104 W. Webster, St. Francis. Call (785) 332-6542 for more informa-

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter provides 24-hour-7 day-a-week services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Weekly support groups are available for women and children within the northwest Kansas area. For information or if you are in need of assistance, please call the toll-free number 1-800-794-4624.

Obituaries

Martin Carl Busse

Sept. 25, 1918 - Dec. 27, 2006 Martin Carl Busse was born on Sept. 25, 1918, in Thayer County, Hebron, Neb. He was the third child of August Henry and Anna Marie Greisler Busse. He was baptized at Hebron. Fourteen months later he moved to Bird City, Kan., to live on the farm homesteaded by his maternal grandparents, Henry Albertine Greisler. It was this same place he called home for the next 68 years.

Martin was confirmed at St. John Lutheran Church on April 24, 1932. He was active in Luther League and was vice president of the Central District. He taught high school Sunday school for 20 years and adult Sunday school into his 80s. Martin was an active member of the Lutheran Brotherhood, sang in the choir, served as president of the local Aid Association of Lutherans (AAL) and was elected to church council in various positions over the years.

He attended the one-room Mt. Pleasant School completing eighth grade. He then attended Bird City Rural High School graduating in 1937. He served as president of his senior class, the first class to take a senior trip,

month correspondence course in Angeles, Calif., for one month of Minnie Busse. shop training.

and left home on July 31, 1941. After four days, he enlisted in the Army Air Corp. He achieved the rank of Tech Sergeant as an airplane mechanic. Martin was in the military for over four years. He was honorably discharged on Nov. 27, 1945. He was an active member of

On June 8, 1947, he married Arlene America Ochsner at Salem Lutheran Church northwest of St. Francis. They moved to a farm south of Bird City where they lived for two years. In 1950, they purchased the farm from his father that had been homesteaded by his grandfather. On their farm he raised wheat, corn, milo, sunflowers and Polled Hereford cattle. They were blessed with two

daughters, Sherri Lynn and Beverly Jean, and one son, Stephen Martin. Martin's many activities in-

cluded 20 years as president of the board of directors of Northwest Kansas Electric Cooperative and he was proud of serving on this board. He was on the telephone board, school board, Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) Committee and the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) Committee. Martin volunteered for years in the Fancy Five and Eggers Eight buildings at the Steam Engine Show.

Arlene and Martin moved into Bird City in December 1987 and he remained there until his death on Dec. 27, 2006, at the Cheyenne County Hospital, at 88 years of

Preceding him in death were his traveling to Denver and Boulder. wife, Arlene; granddaughter, In 1939, after taking a six- Bethany Busse; parents; brother, Paul: sister. Esther and husband. diesel mechanics, he went to Los Fred Dornauer; sister-in-law, Catherine Hospital in Garden City,

Survivors include his daugh-Martin was drafted into the Army ters, Sherri and husband, Phil Fairbury, Neb., to Frank and Berndt of Monument and Beverly and husband, Ron Smith of Colorado Springs, Colo; son, Steve and wife, Jan of Bird City; five grandchildren, Lydia and Lucas Smith, and Sydney; Craig and Stephanie Busse; brother, Clarence Busse of St. Francis; sister, Ruth Oestmann and brother-in-law, Louis of Cot-

tonwood, Ariz.; sister-in-law, Joann Busse Scott of Goodland. nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends. Martin worked as a farmer and

rancher all of his life but it was his faith that was most important to him. He demonstrated it in his actions by devoting his life to Christ and setting a good example for his family and friends. His confirmation verse, Matthew 24:13, "but he who stands firm to the end will be saved," was what he strived for

Funeral services were held on Jan. 2 at St. John Lutheran Church in Bird City with Shirley Daire PMA as officiant.

Honorary pallbearers were members of the Pinochle Club, Clarence Busse, Walt Roesener, Freda Black, Keith and Hulda Dorsch, Vernetta Haack, Wayne and Erma Deeds and Esther Casket bearers were Dan Busse,

Dave Busse, Dale Oestmann, Terry Busse, Ron Busse, Ted Busse and Brian Ochsner. Interment was in the Bird City

Cemetery, Bird City. Arrangements were made by

Knodel Funeral Home, St. Edna May Lanam

May 5, 1918 - Dec. 21, 2006

Edna May Lanam, 88, died She was born May 5, 1918, in

Matilda Kunz Schmale. She moved with her family to Garden City in 1919, and she graduated with the class of 1936 from Garden City High School. She attended Wilcox Beauty Academy of Dodge City. Mrs. Lanam lived with her sisters, Roberta and Dorothy. She owned and operated Teddy May's Beauty

On Jan. 25, 1946, she married Burton Crippen Lanam in Dodge City. He died May 10, 1964. She also was preceded in death by

her parents, two sisters, Helen and Lydia, and one brother, Albert. Survivors include her daughter,

Cinda Dankenbring, and son-inlaw, Keith, of St. Francis; her son, Burton C. Lanam, and daughter-inlaw, Edith, of Security, Colo.; four sisters, Roberta Schmale, Dorothy Schmale, Pia Maupin, Isabell Bonebrake and brother-in-law, Carl, all of Garden City; one brother, Frank Schmale, and sister-in-law, Marilyn, of Garden City; seven grandchildren; and six great-grand-

Funeral services were held on Dec. 26, 2006, at 10:30 a.m. at St. James Lutheran Church with Anthony Striffler, pastor, officiating. Valley View Cemetery in Garden City is the burial site.



SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m.

1 hour, 38 min.

Jan. 5, 6 & 7

Charlotte's Web

Starring: Dakota Fanning, Julia Roberts, Oprah Winfrey, Dominic Scott

Drama, Kids/Family

Rating: G

St. Francis, KS Children 11 & under: \$2 12-18 yr.: \$3 Senior Citizens: \$3 Adults: \$4

CHEYENNE COUNTY

HOSPITAL 210 W. 1st • St. Francis, KS

NOTICE

Due to the number of flu and cold cases within our community we are closing the hospital to ALL non-immediate family members.

> Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

> > — Cheyenne County

Corrections

The Saint Francis Herald will correct or clarify any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at 332-3162 to report errors. We believe that news stories should be fair and factual, and appreciate your calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

Postmaster: Send address correction to P.O. Box 220 Bird City, Kansas 67731-0220

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Sam on the skid steer the city just purchased with financial assistance from Bird City Century II. Thanks Sam & Daryl for a great job on the snow removal.



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Hospital Administration