

911 Dispatch Committee is proposed

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis City Council met with the Cheyenne County Commissioners Friday morning in an effort to solve communication problems between the city law officers, sheriff's officers and the 911 dispatchers. At the end of the discussion, a 911 Dispatch Committee was proposed. However, before it is official, there needs to be a resolution plus, each member of the committee must undergo and pass a FBI background check.

Scott Schultz, St. Francis mayor, opened the discussion by telling the commissioners that the city council was concerned about the lack of communication between departments and officers. He said that when the county took over the Enhanced 911 system, the council had understood they would be a part of it by having a representative on the 911 board.

In an earlier article, *The Saint Francis Herald* had listed the board to be Craig Van Allen, sheriff; Cody Beeson, under sheriff; deputy Michael Blehm, sheriff department; deputy Jon Lanz, sheriff department; Justin Barrett, county attorney; George Harper, fire chief, St. Francis; Dave Hickert, fire chief, Bird City; Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director; and Gary Rogers, county emergency manager.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said he was not sure who had set up the board.

Carol Gamblin, 911 communications technician, had earlier told a *Herald* writer that the state needed a list of people to serve, it had to have 51 percent law enforcement and, at that time, the St. Francis Police Department did not have a police chief.

"I was not allowed to leave a blank space," she said.

Mr. Beikman said he had no problem including the St. Francis Police Department on the 911 board and went so far as to propose the entities to be included: county police officer, city St. Francis police officer, Bird City police officer, representatives from both the St. Francis and Bird City city council and fire departments, St. Francis Chief of Police, sheriff, Gary Rogers, emergency manager; Justin Barrett, county attorney; and Carol Gamblin, dispatch technician.

This board would set rules and regulations and work out problems.

Mayor Schultz said that he would like to see the departments pull together.

Dispatching
The discussion then turned to deputizing and the city police not getting 911 calls.

Meeting and dinner to be held Thursday

By Karen Krien

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The 56th Cheyenne County Conservation District meeting and supper will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 28, in the cafeteria at the St. Francis Community High School.

Honored this year will be Gale and Mary Walz, Bankers Conservation Award winner; and Russell and Jean Moore, Windbreak Award winners. Others recognized at the meeting will be the student winners of the poster contests.

The meeting is held each year to honor the men and women of the county who nurture, tend and care for our most priceless resources — the land and wildlife habitats.

During the business meeting,

"Correct me if I am wrong. There has been no dispatch from the county to the city police department?" asked Carla Lampe, council woman.

This appeared to be the consensus of the council, police and city attorney. They felt like they had been "locked out," and didn't have a clue as to what was going on. This was another reason they felt like they should have a representative on the 911 board.

At the end of the commissioners' meeting, Craig Van Allen, sheriff, and Jim Rarick, dispatcher, were back. Mr. Rarick had a sheet of statistics regarding dispatch calls that had been made to the city of St. Francis Police Department from Feb. 1 through 14. The unapproved commissioners' minutes stated that there were 35 legitimate calls (meaning no location or on/off duty calls) during that time frame.

Deborah Farlan, St. Francis Chief of Police, said this information was not presented to her but was presented to the commissioners at the end of the meeting, after the council and others had left.

"I'd like to see it," she said.

Deputizing
Deputizing officers was another issue. The city police said they are willing to work with the sheriff if there is a problem but they said the sheriff was not willing to deputize the officers.

Sheriff Van Allen reported later that he is responsible for the actions of any person he deputizes and was hesitant to deputize anyone he didn't know. However, he said if he gives verbal permission, the city police can patrol outside the city limits. He went on to say that the city police are patrolling the cemetery, Yost Farm Supply and Riverside Recreation.

"If I give written permission (to deputize), I am held liable for the person's actions," Sheriff Van Allen said.

As far as coming onto the scene of a crime, the officer can detain the suspect until a sheriff officer arrives. The sheriff can also ask that the officers help in an emergency situation and they are automatically deputized.

In the end
Mr. Beikman said he would personally contact people to serve on the 911 Committee. In the meantime, county attorney, Justin Barrett, will lay out some directions for the committee and immediately send out a memo to the city council and commissioners.

The matter will obviously be ongoing until these issues can be worked out and problems resolved.

there will be a report of finances and activities from the supervisors of the county's conservation district. The terms of board members, Dan Busse and Spencer Schleppe, will be expiring and an election will be held.

The meal is free but people planning to attend are asked to contact the conservation office, 785-332-2183 by this Thursday.

Check the special Cheyenne County Conservation issue inserted in next week's issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. There are articles about the Bankers Award winners and conservation practices. Take special notice of the advertisers who helped make the section possible.



EACH PHOTOGRAPH TELLS a story. Bill and Dolly Boyson have taken pictures together for over 30 years. Bill started taking pictures as a young man living in Bird City more than 70 years ago. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Pictures worth a thousand words

By Linda Schneider
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Born in Bird City Dec. 26, 1915, William (Bill) Boyson is one of the few remaining born in that era.

Except for the few years he left to find work, and get married, Mr. Boyson has called Bird City "home."

Residents know Mr. Boyson — Bill, as he likes to be called — as a photographer. He and Dolly owned and operated a photography studio in Bird City for over 30 years. However, before they opened up the studio together, Bill had to travel to Washington to get his bride.

Bill and Dolly (Naomi Nash), have been married for 66 years and met when he worked for her father as a "climber" in Washington.

Sometime after 1935, Mr. Boyson and his family experienced hail storms that destroyed two years of their farm's wheat crop in Bird City. His mother had a brother living in Washington and during a visit, the family decided to buy a small house and move there to work. There, Bill hired on with a local lumber company.

Henry Nash had a hired climber, Ted Repatoe, who wanted to compete in a nationwide tree-climber competition. Mr. Repatoe came back to work with a world champion title and had an offer to work with another company for more money. Mr. Nash, being a man of colorful words, told him to go and Mr. Boyson was hired in his place.

Mr. Boyson found that he was quite comfortable being 200 feet above ground with only a rope to secure him to the tree. He would often stop on his way up to cut off the top of a tree and have a cigarette. When he smoked, said he enjoyed the serenity and the view such a climb offers.

"Height has never bothered me and whether 75 feet or 150 feet, a fall is a fall and a person can die from either one," Boyson said.

Mr. Boyson did have a fall Jan. 30, 1939, in which he broke his leg and ended his career as a climber. But not before he met and married Dolly.

Before moving back to Bird City, they made a brief stop in Los Angeles, Calif., and there they started their family, one set of twins, Ronald and Donald, plus Mike.

Bird City was not Mrs. Boyson's ideal place to live

originally and . Boyson had to warm her up to the idea by bringing her for a visit. During one such visits, Dolly stood at the city limits and asked, "Does the wind always blow like this?" The reply was, "Not all the time, most of the time it blows harder."

But the Boysons made their home in Bird City and shared a photography studio with the bank when it was in the building that is now the Heritage Café.

They had many humorous moments being next to the bank.

"People would come in our studio and ask to cash their checks," Mrs. Boyson said.

And the studio was not without it moments.

Mrs. Boyson shared two stories: "We were hired to take wedding pictures and the bride would not go home with her husband after the wedding, she went home with her parents instead!"

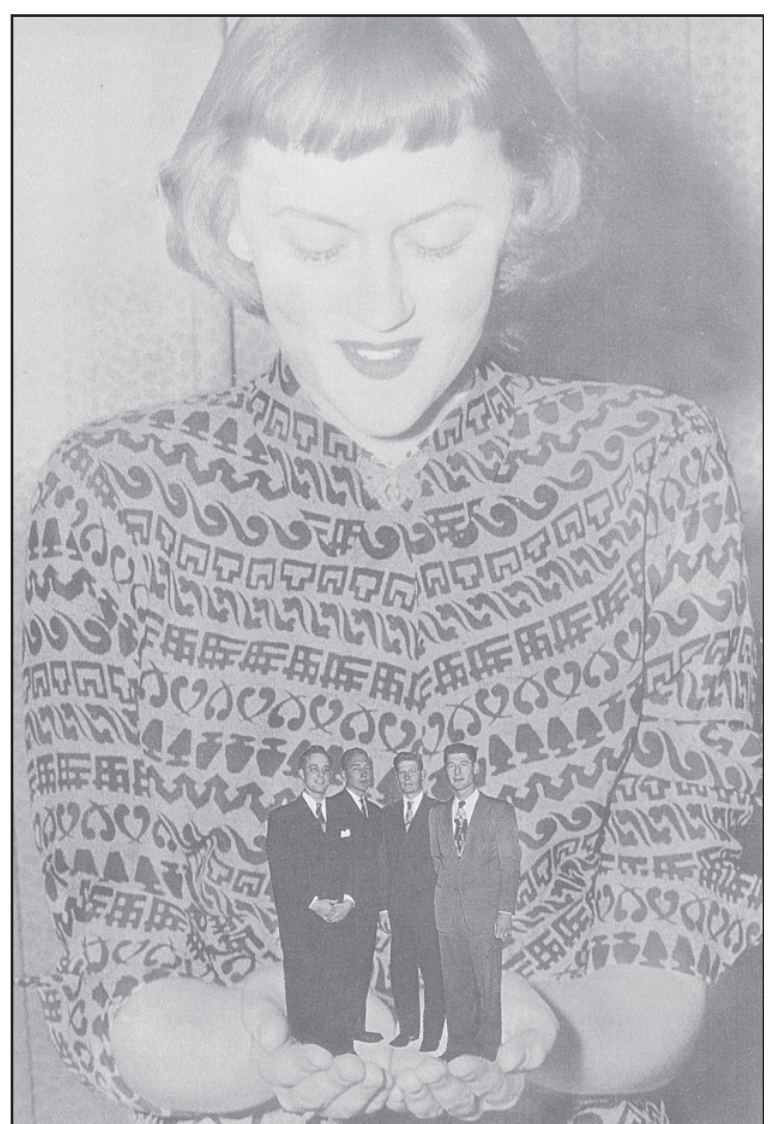
"Once we took pictures of a wedding, were paid and while we were processing them, about 30 days, the bride and groom split up!"

Not only did . Boyson photograph weddings and surrounding areas, one of the things he enjoyed doing was "illusionary" photography. Some of his photographs give the illusion of giants and flying saucers! Moreover, since heights never bothered him, he took many pictures of Bird City from the top of the town water tower. When . Boyson started taking pictures, they were only black and white, but sometimes Dolly would use oil colors and carefully add paint to the film to bring them alive with color.

Mr. Boyson did take some time off and worked with his dad. He bought a combine and together they drove combine from 1946 through 1955. They harvested from Texas to the Canadian border. During that time, Mrs. Boyson ran the studio and took pictures of over 40 weddings. Then . Boyson stayed home and together they ran the studio until they closed shop after 30 years.

"We never really retired, just slowly over time took less and less photographs until the shop closed on its own," he said.

In addition, they still have hanging in their dining room the original clock from the bank next to their shop. Bill and Dolly still keep photographs of Bird City that are well over 50



THE MUSIC TEACHER in the picture is unknown, but she is holding the Bird City Quartet, Neal Hamm, Ervin Hopp, Dean Smith and Don Kramer, as Bill remembers them.



IN AN UNDATED PICTURE, Raoma Johnson takes a ride around Bird City on a 'flying saucer.'

Photographs courtesy of Bill Boyson

years old.

One twin, Ronald, lives in Scotts City and is an anesthesiologist. Their youngest son, Mike, stills lives in Bird City, he owns and operates the Hot Brush sign company. Sadly, it