

Obituaries

Edwin Henry William Meyer Jan. 15, 1912 - Jan. 15, 2011

On Jan. 15, 1912, Frank and Louise (Schiermeyer) Meyer welcomed their first child, Edwin Henry William, into the world. Edwin was born in Smyrna, Neb., a town that no longer exists, at their home. Edwin's mother, Louise was the oldest child in her family, so Edwin was the first grandchild.

Edwin's grandparents, William and Minnie Schiermeyer, were still rearing their own children when Edwin was born. Edwin had two uncles and one aunt younger than himself. He had many memories of this part of the family because his mother was sickly and he stayed much of the time at his grandparent's house. Edwin and one of his uncles were in the same class in school and also shared their Lutheran confirmation class. Edwin treasured his class ring as well as his uncle's that he kept all of these years.

Edwin was the oldest of the six children in his family. Velma was born in 1915 and died when she was only 3. Leonard was born in 1919 and died a hero in 1944, when the plane he piloted in the Army was shot down over the Atlantic Ocean. Clarence was born in 1921, and died in 1954, due to a gas leak. Everett, born in 1922, is currently living in Hastings, Neb. Alice the youngest, was born in 1928 and currently lives in Greeley, Colo.

Edwin grew up on a farm and started his career at a young age; school was always secondary to his work on the farm. He would help his dad in the field in the fall and miss lots of school in the first few months. He helped milk the cows, take care of the pigs, geese and ducks. He assisted in planting and harvesting the wheat, corn, milo and barley. Edwin remembered cutting thistles, piling them into a stack and adding lots of salt so the cattle would eat them because they had no feed in the 1930s.

After graduation from high school in Nelson, Neb., one of Edwin's teachers asked him to come to Bird City, Kan., to help on his family farm. Edwin stayed in Kansas and met the love of his life, Ruby Oletha Wright, the farmer's daughter, at his very first job. Edwin met Ruby when she was carrying two buckets of milk from the barn to the house. He was immediately lovesick and did not even offer to carry the buckets for her. Edwin lived on Ruby's father's farm, and Ruby ended up washing and ironing for him. The courtship ended as they were united in marriage on Dec. 16, 1936, in Goodland. The reception followed at her parent's home south of Bird City.

Ruby was a doting housewife and became a mother on June 4, 1940, to daughter, DeEtta. Their son, David was born April 15, 1942. Edwin made sure that the children always went to church; they were members of the Lutheran church. They attended Sunday school, Bible school, confirmation and Lutheran League.

The children recall helping Edwin with lots of chores. They helped take care of the cows, pigs, chickens, guineas, geese, ducks, sheep, cats and dogs. In the winter months the family played many card games. After a snow, Edwin would hook a car hood to his pickup and pull the children around the farm.

In the summer, Edwin worked in the field, milked the cows, and then helped Ruby in the garden. He would help her water, hoe and gather the produce. Ruby

would spend days in the kitchen canning the wonderful gifts from their garden.

Edwin was a member of the Bird City Lutheran Brotherhood and attended Bible study regularly his entire life. He was a regular volunteer for the St. Francis Center and would drive their bus for activities and meals.

Edwin and Ruby loved doing everything together; from doing chores together to taking road trips with others in the church van to Branson, the Grand Canyon, and many other great places. Edwin's greatest guilty pleasure was going to a good sale; consignment auctions, farm sales, garage or yard sales, you name it - he was there with Ruby in tow. He would be the one to bid on the box of things that no one else wanted. He would give a dollar and take home his treasures.

Family was always irreplaceable to Edwin. DeEtta, their daughter, was married to Kenneth Knorr on Aug. 7, 1960. Born to this union were two girls; Kim and Karla (Patrick). DeEtta has three grandkids and one great-grandchild. DeEtta and Kenneth are living in St. Francis and she is retired from being a nurse aide and restorative aide. They continue to farm. Edwin and Ruby's son, David, married Charlene Browning on June 27, 1965. This union gave Edwin four grandchildren: Anita (Jarrod), Mike, Troy (Kary), and Kelly. David's children have added nine great-grandchildren to the family tree, and a great-great grandchild is expected in May. David retired from the Equity filling station in St. Francis where he was the manager for 46 years. They continue to live in St. Francis.

With six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and soon to be two great-great grandchildren, Edwin was always a very busy grandpa. He was always the first one on the floor entertaining the young children.

In 1981, Edwin and Ruby left the farm and moved into St. Francis. In 1984, Ruby died from a long battle with cancer. More hardships fell on the family in 2002 when one of Edwin's great-grandsons, his girlfriend, and their unborn baby girl were killed in a tragic car accident.

Edwin was blessed to have had a companion for the last 26 years, Ilone Ketter. Their courtship started with a trip to an auction. They then enjoyed countless activities together throughout the years. Just ask Ilone and she will tell you to consider the source when speaking of Edwin!

In 2002, Edwin relentlessly went to live at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis. Even though he didn't like the idea of becoming a resident, he did enjoy the activities and devotions at the "institution" as he called it. At the tail end of 2010, the Village caught fire

and all of the residents were evacuated. He remembered that he was just trying to play a game of pinochle when they began evacuating. He was fortunate to find a new residency at Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby.

Edwin loved a lively debate, a game of pinochle or bingo, and anything humorous or ornery. He truly enjoyed his life of family, friends, reading, music and mostly his faith in God. He was an inspiration to everyone he met.

Edwin celebrated his 99th birthday at the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis, surrounded by family and friends. He finished his birthday celebrating in the hands of God.

Preceding him in death were his parents, two brothers, one sister, brother-in-law, grandson-in-law and great grandson.

Survivors include children, DeEtta (Kenneth), David (Charlene), six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild (one coming in May), brother, Everett (Ella) Meyer, sister, Alice Janssen and Ruby's sister, Dorothy (Brad) Wright Rambat.

Funeral services were held on Jan. 19 at St. John Lutheran Church, Bird City, with Pastor David Rossbach and Pastor Ken Hart officiating.

Casket bearers were Mike Meyer, Troy Meyer, Kelly Meyer, Patrick Mills, Paul Janssen, Ron Meyer, Steve Meyer and Jarrod Olson.

Interment was in the Bird City Cemetery.

Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis, was in charge of the arrangements.

Cheylin Cougars are defeated by Jackrabbits on Friday

By Betty Jean Winston
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The Greeley County/Tribune Jackrabbits defeated the Cougars on Friday night in Western Kansas/Liberty League basketball action. The final score was Tribune 63, Cheylin 38. The Kansas Basketball Coaches Association has Tribune ranked sixth in boys 1A Division II with a 9-3 record. They also were the winners of the league tournament earlier in January.

Cheylin had a 5-4 record going into Tuesday nights game with Rawlins County.

Against Greeley County, the Cougars fell behind early and were down 31-17 at half time. They scored their most points in the fourth quarter with 17.

Six players added to the team's final score with Kenan Reeh having 12 and Adrian Garcia 10 to set the pace. The team was 29 percent from the floor (15/51) and they hit 6-of-14 free-throw attempts. Reeh connected on the only two successful three-pointers.

Nine Cougars collected rebounds with Garcia leading with nine. Chris Walden had a block and Heath Antholz and Reeh combined for the team's nine steals. Reeh led in assists with three.

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Scoring: Reeh 12, Garcia 10, Joshua Keltz 6, Dalton Magnani 4, Caleb Keltz 4, Antholz 2.

Rebounding: Garcia 9, Ethan Young 5, Antholz 4, Magnani 3, C. Keltz 3, Reeh 3, Walden 2, J. Keltz 2, Craig Busse 1.



JOSHUA KELTZ is trying to block another player while Rubin Razo is waiting to help. Times photo by Darci Schields

Club Clip

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

The Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1528 met on Jan. 17, at the city hall in St. Francis. There were five members present: Connie Rooney, Marlys Poulignot, Ruth Moore, Carol Connett and Wanda Dowdy.

The Mid-Winter Conference for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Auxiliary was held in McPherson Jan. 14, 15 and 16. Cade Bracelin and his family were there for this conference. This was really exciting for them because Cade's essay had won first place in the local, district and department. He received a \$500 savings bond from the state for this. Now his essay will be going to the national competition.

One of the suggestions for projects for the Auxiliaries was the Adopt-A-Unit program, in which

members would send cards to a service unit and send care packages throughout the year. This would really be an encouragement to these young men and women who are faithfully serving this country during these times of war. Members found out that they could choose a service unit that was stationed here in this country. The idea was put this to a vote and decided that this would be one project that members would like to do.

If anyone is eligible to join, members would be happy to have them come and be a part of the group as they continue to strive to help veterans and service men and women.

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 21, at city hall in St. Francis.



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For sale to the highest qualified bidder - Carpet and upholstery cleaning equipment with attachments and a 1997 Chevy Astro Van with lift. Bids will be accepted on van or equipment. Will take bids till 01-31-11. All located at First National Bank, 210 Bird Avenue, Bird City, KS. Call 785-734-2100 for additional information. May send bids to FNB, P.O. Box 40, Bird City, KS 67731.

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BW +4.0 WW +67 YW +113 Milk +27
205 Day Wt. 833 • WR 123

He Sells!

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