

# QUEEN

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ties liked it, too.”

The not-so-fun part of milking was being knocked off her homemade milk stool, the kind you had to balance, nor did she like being swished by the cow’s tail, or getting her bucket of milk knocked over, even though she had put on the kickers.

Then the milk was taken to the separator which they turned the handle by hand to separate the milk from the cream. With that, of course, came washing the separator.

She said she really did not like that job. The skim milk went to the hogs and the cream that they did not personally use, went in a 10- or 20-gallon cream can and was taken to the creamery.

“I still have one of those cans with my dad’s name on it,” she said.

In addition to having cows on the farm, there were also horses, hogs and chickens, which meant getting to gather eggs. That was fun, she said, but the most fun was sitting in the brooder house and having those fuzzy baby chickens walk all over

her. They had a rather large incubator in which the eggs were hatched in place of the mama hen sitting on the eggs to hatch out the baby chickens. She said she has dressed many chickens.

“Now I just go to the grocery store and buy one,” she said. “I guess that is progress, or is it?”

While living in Nebraska, they had a large orchard with apples, pears, cherries and apricots. Even though they had all this fruit, she still would have to go down to the creek and pick goose berries for

canning. Their garden had every kind of vegetable one could imagine and that, of course, meant lots of canning. At their house there was never a tin can, just lots and lots of jars for canning.

They butchered their own beef and pork, canned a lot and cured a lot. Because her grandma had a smoke house, much could be cured and smoked. Very little was discarded.

“We made “blood worst” she said. “Yes it was made from blood. When I mentioned this to my kids,

they said, “Oh, yuk” but really, when fried, it tasted pretty good as a breakfast meat.”

Vernetta attended a country school. She was never taken to school in a car. She walked or her dad took her in a buggy or on horseback. Her school was in an ideal spot, half of the playground was level for playing games and the other half was a creek. One tree had one of those long vines, and they would grab it and swing across the water.

“You know like Tarzan, but unlike Tarzan, I fell in several times,” she said. “I remember gypsies going by our school in their fancy horse-drawn carriage. Our teacher allowed us to stop what ever we were doing and just watch them go by.”

In 1935, she moved with her family to Kansas. They came to Kansas because land could be purchased at a cheaper price than in Nebraska. Roy Dankenbring, who is Phyllis Wright’s grandpa, found a place for them to purchase from Roy Connnett. Now 76 years later, she still lives on that farmstead. When the kids, from the country school that she attended, heard she was moving to Western Kansas, she was really teased.

“They said I was moving to a place where even the jackrabbits could not live.”

Her dad moved the furniture by truck that was owned by Ed Fowkes who lived in their area of Pickrell, Neb. When they neared Stratton, Neb., they ran into such a terrible dust storm, they could not see to go any farther. They crawled in the ditch to a house they had just passed. While they were at this house taking cover from the dust storm, someone ran into the furniture-loaded truck.

Years later in 1991, Vernetta was reading the story in the Benkelman Post of Ruby Kirkman’s 100 years. Ruby is the mother of Eula Harrison Ham, who is the sister-in-law of Mary Dorsch. In the article, Ruby tells of her uncle and aunt returning in a terrible dust storm from McCook and running into a parked truck belonging to a man by the name of Ed Fowkes. This Ed Fowkes was Ruby’s cousin. Ruby thought it quite a coincidence that her husband’s uncle ran into her cousin, Ed Fowker’s truck, when he lived 350 miles away. This accident happened in 1935 and it is now 56 years later, that Vernetta learned the particulars of what happened with the truck loaded with their furniture. She was so excited when she read that.

“At the time when all of this was happening, my mom and I were at home in Nebraska and we had heard about a terrible dust storm,” Vernetta said. “We could actually see that the sun was partially obscured by dust in the western sky. Maybe we really were moving to a place where the jackrabbits could not live.”

The first car Vernetta remembers her dad having was a Cleveland, then a Ford, Model T. Before moving to Kansas in 1935, they bought a 1931 Model A Ford. She thought that was one fancy car because it had green wheels and had a trunk added to the back. She said she guessed it was the first time that she had seen something besides black on a car.

When they moved to Bird City in March of 1935, Vernetta was in the seventh grade. To pass from the seventh grade to the eighth grade, a test on Kansas geography and Kansas History was given at the courthouse. Coming from Nebraska she knew nothing about Kansas history so her mother ordered books so she could study them. She said she must have passed the test because she was allowed to go on to the eighth grade.

She helped her parents with their farming operation. She especially remembers having to drive the tractor pulling the combine and having all that dust and chaff going over her when the wind was in the wrong direction and, of course, it would be that way the long way of the field. The one thing that made it more bearable was that her mother had promised as payment to get her some blue suede shoes that she had seen in the “Alden’s” catalog.

“And I just kept thinking of those

gorgeous blue suede shoes,” she said. “Yes, I got those blue suede shoes and wore them proudly to high school.”

In 1940, when she graduated from Bird City Rural High School where she had taken classes to become a teacher. To become a teacher, one was required to take tests at the state level to receive a “Normal Training Teaching Certificate.” This certificate would expire in three years and then it could be renewed by getting college credits. She still doesn’t know why it was called a “Normal Training Teaching Certificate.”

Her first job was teaching in the Walnut Grove School District. It was a one-room school but more modern than many country schools at the time. It had a coal furnace and a basement which allowed for playing games, etc., when the weather was inclement. Some of her pupil’s names from that country school that you may recognize today were the Wilkens, Mears, Hatch, Hilty, Payne and Banister.

“I absolutely loved teaching,” she said. “We had plays, box supers, etc. I was Art Wilkens’ first grade teacher and today, I am being chauffeured in his fire truck royal coach. How about that! Because of my teaching with a Normal Training certificate right out of high school, I was not much older than some of my pupils but I had very few problems with discipline. I tried to make school life interesting and exciting. During my teaching at Walnut Grove, the county superintendent decided that students should have a hot noon lunch. So families took turns bringing a large kettle of food which we kept hot on a heating stove. Can you imagine this happening today?”

She received a salary of \$65 per month. By her fourth year, her salary had risen to a whopping \$135. She was so thrilled but when she received her paycheck it was only \$119. That was the first year that the government started withholding.

“We all know what happened after that, don’t we!” she said.

She drove the 12 miles to school every day-always, she said, with a heavy foot.

“The Dorsch’s, whose home I passed on the way, told me that I was driving so fast that not only did the trees lean toward the south, but the chicken were losing their feathers. But I always got to school on time.”

After that she taught the third grade in Bird City. During that time, she married Norman Haack. Together, she and Norm followed the tradition of their parents in farming. They worked together with Vernetta helping him with many aspects of farming. She had driven the tractor on many acres of ground, whether it be summer fallowing, drilling wheat, or harvesting.

Before they had the grain cart for harvesting, she would drive the truck next to the moving combine to unload on the go. She would have to drive so close, she was so afraid she would hit the combine. Norm just calmly said, “Don’t worry about that. I’m watching and before I let you hit my combine, I’ll just drive into the standing wheat.”

She never did hit the combine with her truck. Of course, he probably didn’t tell her how many times he had to steer that combine into the standing wheat.

She retired from teaching when their children were born to become a stay-at-home mom. As they grew older, they helped with the farming and she was gradually phased out until they left home, then it was back to just the two of them, just like in their early married years.

“Norm died eight years ago, and I still continue to farm through leasing and custom farming,” she said. “Here to help me celebrate as being the 2011 thresher queen are our three children and their spouses, Ron and Arlene, Tampa, Fla., Roger and Sharon, Lawrence, and Pam and Dave Jensen, Blair, Neb. Also here are five of my seven grandchildren and six of my eight great-grandchildren.”

Vernetta ended by saying “thank you” for the opportunity of being the 2011 thresher show queen.

## Public Notices

### Notice published in the Webb estate

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays, July 28, August 4 and August 11, 2011. (30-32)

#### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of  
Louis Webb, Deceased

Case No. 2011-PR-19

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed on July 26, 2011, in said court by Garold Lee, named executor and legatee of the estate of Louis Webb, deceased, praying for an Order Refusing to Grant Letters of Administration and assigning the probate assets of the estate to the petitioner for the purpose of paying debts and to admit to record the decedent’s Last Will and Testament dated April 13, 2005.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before August 19, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. in the District Court of Cheyenne County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

GAROLD LEE, PETITIONER

BROWN, CREIGHTON & PECKHAM  
Attorneys at Law  
308 Main - Box 46  
Atwood, KS 67730  
(785)-626-3295  
ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

### Notice of hearing in the Connett estate

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays July 28, August 4 and August 11, 2011 (30-32)

#### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of

HAROLD L. CONNETT, a/k/a  
LEE CONNETT, Deceased.

Case No. 11-PR-05

(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this Court by Carol Connnett, duly appointed, qualified and acting Executor of the Estate of Harold L. Connnett a/k/a Lee Connnett, deceased, praying Petitioner’s acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Will be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for attorneys’ fees and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Executor of the Estate of Harold L. Connnett a/k/a Lee Connnett, deceased, and the Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before August 23, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. in the District Court, in St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

Carol Connnett, Executor

JAMES M. MILLIKEN, CHARTERED  
James M. Milliken, #7001  
101 W. Washington, P.O. Box 627  
St. Francis, Kansas 67756  
(785) 332-2101  
Attorney for Executor

### Petition filed in court for the Raile estate

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays, August 4, 11, and 18, 2011. (31-33)

#### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of  
BARBARA R. RAILE, Deceased.

Case No. 2011-PR-21

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on July 28, 2011, a Petition for Probate of Will and for Appointment of Personal Representative was filed in this Court by Myra G. Engelkes, an heir, devisee and legatee, and successor personal representative named in the Last Will and Testament of Barbara R. Raile, deceased.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Myra G. Engelkes, petitioner

MICHAEL J. DAY, #8523  
KITE & DAY  
112 W. Washington, P.O. Box 575  
St. Francis, KS 67756  
(785) 332-3323  
Attorney for Petitioner

#### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of

Joseph B. Rathfon, Deceased

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this Court by Donald H. Rohrer, as the personal representative named in the “Last Will and Testament of Joseph B. Rathfon,” deceased, dated July 15, 1998, praying that: the foreign will of Joseph B. Rathfon, deceased, dated July 15, 1998 and the codicil dated October 17, 2006, be admitted to probate and record in this Court; no administration of the Estate is necessary; the will be construed, and the following Kansas real estate owned by the decedent:

A. Cheyenne County, Kansas

1/2 of 15/80 MI in East Half of the Northwest Quarter (N1/2NW1/4) of Section Eleven (11), Township Two (2) South, Range Forty-two (42) West, Cheyenne County, Kansas.

1/2 of 1/16 MI in Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section Three (3), Township One (1) South, Range Forty-two (42) West, Cheyenne County, Kansas.

1/2 of 1/16 MI in North Half of the Northwest Quarter (N1/2NW1/4) of Section Nine (9), Township One (1) South, Range Forty-two (42) West, Cheyenne County, Kansas

B. Edwards County, Kansas

An undivided 1/2 of 1/80 of the oil and gas leasehold title to the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) and the North Half of the Northeast Quarter (N1/2NW1/4) of Section Nine (9), Township Twenty-four (24) South, Range Sixteen (16) West, Edwards County, Kansas- subject to proportionate part of 1/64 of 7/8 overriding royalty interest-Eliza Mary Enlow.

An undivided 1/2 of 1/80 of the oil and gas leasehold title to the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section Four (4), Township Twenty-four (24) South, Range Sixteen (16) West, Edwards County, Kansas- subject to proportionate part of 1/64 of 7/8 overriding royalty interest-Elmer K. Hahn.

C. Pawnee County, Kansas

1/2 of 3/640 MI in the East Half (E1/2) Section Thirty-five (35), Township Twenty-three (23) South, Range Fifteen (15) West, Pawnee County, Kansas, non-participating as to leasing, bonuses and delay rentals, term interest to expire upon cessation of production- Ida M. Hearn.

1/2 of an undivided 1/160 of the oil and gas leasehold title to the East Half (E1/2) Section Thirty-five (35), Township Twenty-three (23) South, Range Fifteen (15) West, (320 acres), Pawnee County, Kansas- Ida M. Hearn.

1/2 of 1/320 of 7/8 ORRI in the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section Twenty-eight (28), Township Twenty-two (22) South, Range Fifteen (15) West, Pawnee County, Kansas- O.E. Smith “A”.

D. Stafford County, Kansas

1/2 of 1/80 of the oil and gas leasehold title to the North Half of the Southeast Quarter (N1/2SE1/4) of Section Thirteen (13), Township Twenty-four(24) South, Range Fourteen (14) West, Stafford County, Kansas, subject to proportionate part of 1/16 or 7/8 overriding royalty interest- L.M. Harrison.

1/2 of 1/80 of the oil and gas leasehold title to Lots Three (3) and Four (4) and the East Half of the Southwest Quarter (E1/2SW1/4) of Section Eighteen (18), Township Twenty-four (24) South, Range Thirteen (13) West, (160 acres) Stafford County, Kansas, proceeds assigned 8-1-60 to Natural Gas and Oil Company until 150% of the cost of McConaughay #2 well is paid McConaughay.

1/2 of 1313/64000 of the oil and gas leasehold title to the West Half of the Southeast Quarter (W1/2SE1/4) of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Twenty-three(23) South, Range Fourteen (14) West, Stafford County, Kansas, subject to 13/800 of 1/16 of 7/8 overriding royalty interest- Josephine T. Radke.

1/2 of 1/160 of 7/8 ORRI in Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section Twenty-eight (28), Township Twenty-four (24) South, Range Thirteen (13) West, of Stafford County, Kansas.

E. Barber County, Kansas

1/2 of 39/1600 of O&G Leasehold Title to North Half of the Northeast Quarter (N1/2NE1/4) of Section Eleven (11), Township Thirty-two (32) South, Range Twelve (12) West, Barber County, Kansas subject to proportionate part of 1/16 of 7/8 overriding royalty interest.

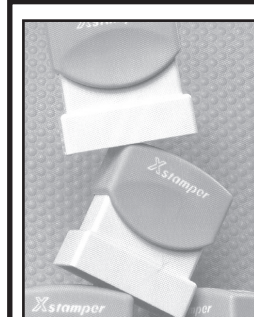
1/2 or 39/1600 of the oil and gas leasehold title to Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4SE1/4) Section Three (3), Township Thirty-two (32) South, Range Twelve (12) West, Barber County, Kansas subject to proportionate part of 1/16 or 7/8 ORRI,

be assigned in accordance with the terms of the Will.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before September 1, 2011 at 10:00 in the district court, St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

Donald H. Rohrer, Petitioner

Zuspann & Zuspann, P.A.  
1002 Broadway, Suite B  
P. O. Box 968  
Goodland, Kansas 67735-0968  
Phone: (785) 890-6555  
Attorneys for Petitioner



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