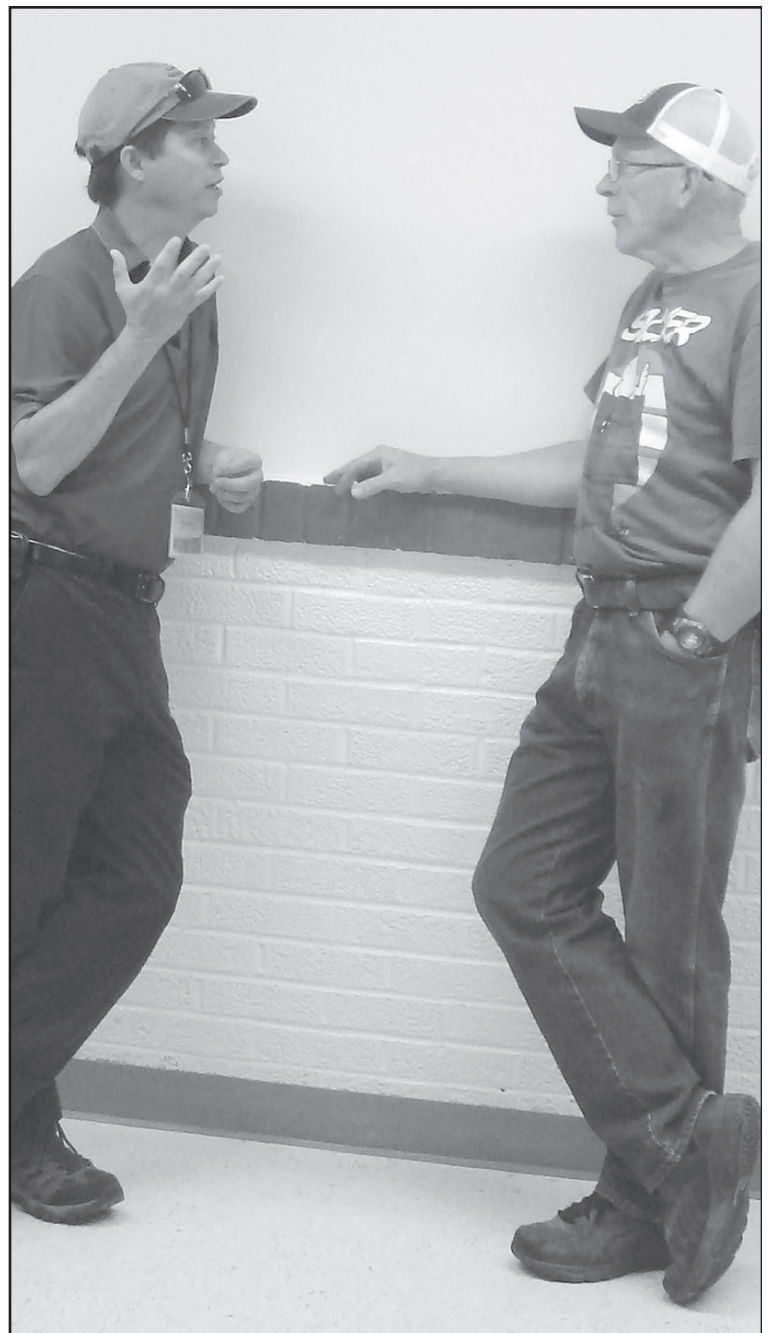




BROKEN PIPES in front of the senior center are being replaced with poly pipe material by Brad Schneider and Russell Jackson, Bird City maintenance crew, and Mike Pochop from Atwood. Terry Burns is checking it out.
Times staff photo by Norma Martinez



VISITING was enjoyed when the bus tour stopped in McDonald.
Times staff photo by Sandy Binning

Bus tour stops briefly in McDonald

By Sandy Binning

The KU Kansas Survey three day tour bus stopped briefly in McDonald for a break Friday morning. Passengers were greeted by several McDonald residents at the McDonald Grade School gym where they enjoyed cookies, coffee, and tea. Several stops made by the bus so far on their tour were Brentwood Creek, North of McDonald, and Bonny Reservoir. A variety of issues will be seen and discussed including water, wildlife, archeological locations, and oil and gas.

Some of the tourists included, state forester, Larry Biles; director, Rex Buchanan; geological surveyor, Shane Lyle; KWPT, Steve Adams; Groundwater Management District 4, Wayne Bossert; Leon Frahm from Colby, legislator, Bob Grant, Janis Lee from Kensington, Liberal legislator, Carl Holmes; Wellington legislator, Vince Netta; Sedgwick legislator, Carolyn McGinn; and Grinnell, legislator, Ralph Ostmeyer.

The Gardener By Kay Melia

Growing up on that dusty depression ridden sand hills farm in the 1930s wasn't a whole lot of fun. But kids like me didn't realize at the time that times were tough, as we searched for ways to have a little fun and enjoyment in life. It was a little later, when harvests were reasonably dependable and a little money was circulating that we would look back and realize just how bad things really were.

But we would create things to do and learn to appreciate the occasional reasons for small joys that might come our way. Because of the garden, the milk cow, and the chickens, we had plenty to eat, which was sometimes not the case for city kids. And we spent a lot of time with neighbors, who were never more than a half mile away in any direction.

Of course there were little remembrances of those days that occasionally pop into your mind

in later years. One of those things that comes to mind, even more than the half acre of potatoes that seemingly always needed tending, was a small space in the garden where my mother always, year after year, planted a packet of zinnia seed. Everything in the garden was neatly planted in rows, but the zinnias were relegated to a small 4 by 4 foot block, and mother would bank up the soil around the square so that she could easily flood-irrigate the little plot.

In those days, zinnias were either red or pink, period. I will always remember the block of color the zinnias provided in an otherwise standard green garden. Later, orange and yellow zinnias became available, but always, those huge double-petaled blooms were the star attraction wherever they were planted. The Burpee Seed Company would later develop a beautiful white zinnia.

In the 20s and 30s, zinnias became the most planted and prized annual flower. Today, it's hard to believe the variety of zinnia cultivars that are available, and yet, flower gardeners plant fewer zinnias than a decade or two ago. Why? Probably because zinnias offer no fragrance. They never have. Apparently, gardeners are forsaking them for something that smells good.

But, oh my! There are so many reasons to plant them today. They are SO easy to grow! Just scatter a few seeds in a shallow mode, and then stand back! There are no transplants or pots or careful attention required. They love the heat, and thrive in poor soils. In the past few years, plant breeders have created single-petal types, like the Profusion series, and the double-petaled Zahara series, both of which have added untold diversity to flower beds near you.

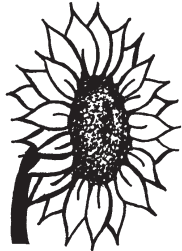
Still, the Super Giant zinnias, with 5 to 6 inch blooms will continue to be favorites of many. You simply must try the gorgeous dahlia-flowered White Wedding, and the Pop Art Red and Yellow zinnia that is a pure "wow factor."

Today, it just doesn't get any better than zinnias in the flower garden. If they just had a bit of fragrance, and of course they will someday, every gardener would plant them.



Upcoming Promotions

For more information contact Tim Burr at:



The Saint Francis Herald

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67757 785-332-3162

Coming

Hometown Heros



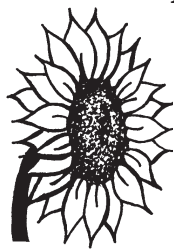
Hometown Heroes

Submit the name of someone you think should be featured as a "Hometown Hero" and why.

Starting in June, The Herald will begin a "Hometown Hero" regular feature.

Advertiser are needed to sponsor what will be a best read series

For more details, contact Tim Burr at the Saint Francis Herald at 785-332-3162



The Saint Francis Herald



Freedom Section

Featuring those who have served our country and a salute to the United States' Freedom

ALUMNI!!!!

The St. Francis Community High School's Alumni Reunion is set for June 16. This year's honored classes: 1937, 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992 and 2002 will be featured in The Saint Francis Herald the first part of July. An issue to treasure!



Baseball & Swim Team Pages

Featuring kids in summer activities

