

Kansas Day celebration set for Tuesday

The 84th Kansas Day in Bird City will be held on Tuesday at the Legion hall with registration starting at 10 a.m. A potluck dinner will be held at 12:30 p.m. with Phil Crawford entertaining while people eat. The program will follow at 1:30 p.m.

This year's Kansas Day theme is "Treasures From the Attic." Displays will feature the items people have found in their attics and want to share with those attending.

Presenting the program will be Erika Nelson, a speaker with the Kansas Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, presenting topics on Outsider Art and Roadside Attractions. She is also a part of the Kansas Arts Commission's Arts on Tour Roster.

Ms. Nelson spent 8 years as an independent artist and educator. While living in a vehicle for two years, she explored the nooks and crannies of the United States seeking out the odd and unusual, gathering stories of people who built Outsider Art Environments, as well as Roadside Vernacular Architecture, known as "Worlds Largest Things." She developed her own traveling roadside attraction and museum featuring "The Worlds Largest Collection of the Worlds Smallest Version of

the Worlds Largest Things."

At Kansas Day, Ms. Nelson will be talking about postcards, especially the "Tall-Tale" postcards, which she has found in attics and through her travels.

William H. "Dad" Martin and Frank D. "Pop" Conard were pioneers of the postcard printing business who found inspiration in the trials and tribulations of Kansas culture. From the early 1900s through 1940, their carefully crafted images pushed the medium of photography, promoting Kansas as a land where ears of corn grew so large that farmers used logging saws to slice them and monster grasshoppers could stop a train in its tracks.

These two pioneers of the printing business took the trials and tribulations of Kansas culture as their inspiration, creating elaborate "trick" or "exaggerated" photo postcards. Working from the early 1900s through the 1940s, their carefully crafted images pushed the medium of photography, expounding on the fertility of a Kansas that could grow ears of corn so huge that farmers used logging saw to slice it, and where six men were required to load the crop of boulder-sized cabbages to take to market. We'll look at the industries and events depicted, the



Speaker, Erika Nelson

inspirations behind the work, and the techniques pioneered by both masters in creating a new facet of the Picture Postcard industry.

"By 1908 Martin was experimenting with 'trick photography' postcards, selling the results throughout the nation. These cards with their visually powerful images were so successful that he sold the (Ottawa, Kan.) photography studio in 1909 to turn full attention to the Martin Post Card Company, which an article in The Evening Herald of May 24, 1909, announced 'turns



Above is one of the postcards collected by Erika Nelson, speaker at the Kansas Day event.

out 10,000 cards daily.'" (Larger Than Life: The American Tall-Tale Postcard)

"F.D. Conard, the owner of a radio station in Garden City, was drawn into the postcard business in 1935 by a plague of grasshoppers. In his words, "...all I could think about was grasshoppers. By morning I had the idea of having some fun with the grasshoppers... I didn't do it for adverse impressions of Kansas,

but as an exaggerated joke... They sold like hot cakes.'" (Big Time: American Tall-Tale Postcards)

The St. Francis third graders and the Cheylin fourth graders will present entertainment.

Mrs. Magley will introduce the eldest Kansas born man and woman, eldest Cheyenne County born man and woman, eldest foreign-born man and woman, eldest man and woman and the youngest boy and girl present

at the program. There will be a business session and the election of officers.

Pastor Tom Bailey will give the memorial tribute and benediction.

The Kansas Day Committee members serving this year are: Marilyn Magley, president; Wanda Dowdy, vice president; Rosemary Powell, secretary; Marsha Magley, treasurer; and Helene Landenberger, past president.



LAURIE LEONARD gave Alvin Loop a plastic file and pen as a gift for attending her open house on Saturday.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Accounting office hosts open house on Saturday

By Norma Martinez
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Last Friday, Laurie Leonard celebrated her 20th year of serving the public as a certified public accountant, and 17th year of selling crop insurance in Bird City with a successful open house. When she first opened up at 9 a.m., she said it was a little slow, but by 10 o'clock it had picked up until she had a steady flow of customers and local residents enter through her door. They continued to come and go non-stop until she closed the doors at 4 p.m.

To make it well worth their efforts, she had lots of homemade finger foods, tiny cup cakes, cookies and other desserts. For the workers who took their lunch hour to come in she had soup and roll-ups.

Mrs. Leonard first set up practice on Bird Ave. and U.S. 36 in the building that used to belong to Leonard Amsberry. She then moved across the street to the basement of Frontier Equity. Both these offices were dingy and run down but she said, they worked to serve her purpose in getting started.

She was delighted when the house at 204 Bird Ave. became available in 1998. With a lot of hard work and talented decorating, she now has a very bright and roomy office building with lots of room to work with her clients and ample off-street parking.

Mrs. Leonard has clients who come to her from the tri-state area, and clients she works with in Texas, Illinois, Arizona and several other states. She can do certified public accounting for any state except California, and says, "That's the only state that requires CPAs to be licensed."

She sells crop insurance to clients in Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado.

"I grew up on a farm north of Beardsley," she said. "That's where I learned about crop insurance."

Mrs. Leonard attended school in McDonald until they consolidated with Bird City, and graduated from Cheylin in 1980. She graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor of science degree in accounting.

In order to keep her license, she has to do 40 hours of continuing education every year.

There is never a lack of topics to choose from for earning these hours, she said, as the tax laws are always being changed by legislation every year.

Mrs. Leonard is the daughter of Gilbert and Marilyn Frisbie who live in McDonald. She is married to Merle Leonard, and they have two sons Reece, a freshman at Cheylin, and Lance, who is a junior at Kansas State University. He is studying journalism and communication.

To add to the pleasantness of the waiting room her, administrative assistant, Connie Sabatka, is at the front desk to greet people with a smile. Mrs. Sabatka came on staff two years ago after working for People's State Bank in McDonald. She and her husband Brian Sabatka live in McDonald and have four children; Tish Loker lives in McDonald, Carrie Magnani and Dana Howard in Bird City, and Brandon Sabatka in Colby.

Mrs. Leonard can be reached at 204 N. Bird Ave., 785-734-2505, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Spaghetti lunch draws good crowd in Bird City

By Norma Martinez
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The Cheyenne County Kansans For Life annual Spaghetti Dinner Benefit was held last Sunday at the Wesleyan Community Church in Bird City. Tables were set up with 97 place settings and by noon they were all filled. Most people ate and left leaving spots open for the newcomers to sit and enjoy their meals. A few stayed and enjoyed visiting until the very end.

As usual the homemade spaghetti, salad and assortment of pies were well received by local residents from St. Francis, McDonald and Bird City. A total of 156 meals were served and \$2,007 was brought in to help Right For Life causes in Cheyenne County and other parts of the nation. The funds brought in through the once-a-year Spaghetti Dinners are the local group's main source of funds to aid various causes of Right For Life.

Last year the Cheyenne County Kansans For Life group gave financial help to the Emergency Pregnancy Center in Colby, Justice For All, and the Mary Elizabeth Maternity Home. The Cheyenne County group consists of 10 active residents from St. Francis, four from Bird City, and one from McDonald. They meet once a



DON AND DONNA WRIGHT are having a hard time choosing pies at the Cheyenne County Kansans For Life spaghetti dinner.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

month, alternating between St. Francis, Bird City and McDonald. For more information contact Ed

and Phyllis Carson in Bird City, or Elmer and Dorothy Kellner in St. Francis.



TUESDAY at 8 a.m. the thermometer was reading 7 degrees, the trees were just gorgeous from the frost. Goodland's temperature was 18 degrees with a predicted high of 54 degrees to bring us back into the spring coat weather once again.