

Norton man honored for 30 years of barbershop chorus singing

By DICK BOYD

During his 77 years, Norton's Phil Lesh has received a lot of awards, most of them coming during the 32 years he was manager of Norton-Decatur Co-op Electric, but he received one Saturday night that he didn't expect.

In honor of the 30 years that he has traveled every Tuesday from Norton to McCook to sing with the Prairie Statesmen barbershop chorus, he was called forward in front of a packed crowd by Chapter President Bill Graves during the annual Spring Show.

To Phil's surprise, he received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award which has only been presented on rare occasions.

"Phil is a very generous member of our chapter," said Graves as he presented the plaque to Phil.

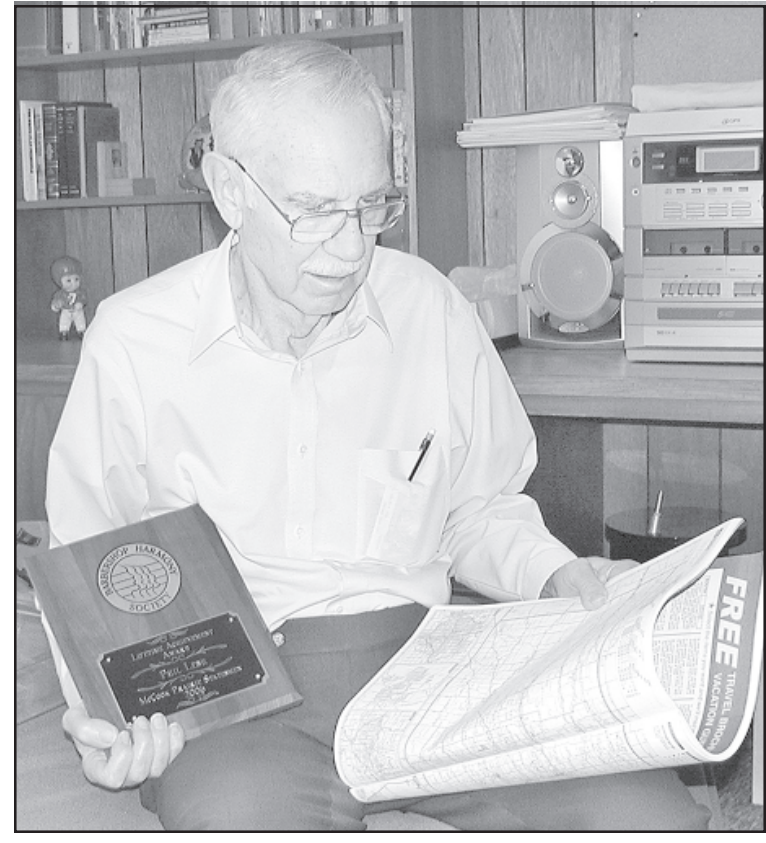
"He has held many offices in our chapter and is the best loved person in the chapter. In his 30 years as a member, he has traveled over 200,000 miles between Norton and McCook every Tuesday for practices.

"Only four members of our chapter have received this award."

Phil has served as president of the chorus on two different occasions and really put miles on his car the year he was vice-president of the Rocky Mountain District.

Phil also received the chapter's Barbershopper of the Year award in 1980 and again in 2000.

"I had no idea they would do something like this," said Phil. "It came as a complete surprise to



Holding the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award he received from the Prairie Statesmen for his 30 years' membership, Norton's Phil Lesh checked the map to make sure he really did travel over 200,000 miles to weekly practices and shows.

me." How did Phil get started singing with a chorus where he had to drive 120 miles for practice?

"I was singing with the choir in the Christian Church and was also a member of a church quartet back in 1976," said Phil.

"One day, friend Joe Davis, who

was a member of the chorus, sold me some tickets to the annual show in McCook. I attended the show and I was hooked."

Other Norton members of the chorus are Clair Rumford, who was named Barbershopper of the Year in 2005; Ron Scheimo and Roy Harshbarger.



Skylar Sumner, 3, colors a grocery sack during one of the activities celebrating The Week of the Young Child. She is the daughter of Derek and Carla Sumner, Norcatour.

Children are the topic of the week

"The Week of The Young Child" is being officially celebrated in Norton.

In a signed proclamation from Mayor David Corns, April 2 to 8 has been an action-packed week. Each day featured a spe-

cial activity ranging from a story hour at the library to a play day at Elmwood Park.

Tuesday afternoon children from the Norton Head Start program, Little Angels Day Care, Holly's Play House and Sunshine

Learning Center colored grocery sacks. Wednesday Shoppers at Jamboree and Norton Shop and Save were able to see some of the children's handiwork when their groceries were placed in those sacks.

Congressman hails legislation to stop meth use

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Jerry Moran has announced passage of the broadest anti-methamphetamine measures ever passed by Congress. The legislation sets a federal standard for addressing meth on all levels across the country.

"Meth is destroying lives, families and communities — the lifeblood of rural America," Mr. Moran said. "Though it has been on the radar screen for years, this legislation takes a big picture approach to combating this dangerous drug from every angle."

Provisions of this legislation will:

- Restrict the sale of necessary ingredients to make meth
- Restricts sale of medicines containing pseudoephedrine, ephedrine and phenylpropanolamine (PPA) by

placing them behind the counter, requiring purchasers to show identification and sign a logbook, and limiting individual purchases.

- Toughen criminal penalties.
- Toughens federal penalties against trafficking and smuggling, as well as producing or dealing meth in the presence of children.
- Provide critical resources to government and law enforcement agencies.
- Provides funding for training, enforcement, prosecution and environmental clean-up.
- Provide services for children affected by the spread of meth.
- Provides grant funding for Drug Endangered Children rapid response teams to promote collaboration

among federal, state and local agencies to assist and educate children that have been affected by meth.

The congressman helped bring attention to meth on the national level last year when he joined other members of Congress in asking President Bush and the administration to take action. He has also sponsored legislation designed to aid local officials and law enforcement in the clean-up of meth labs.

In 2005, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation reported Kansas law enforcement officials seized 390 meth labs. Kansas has historically been among the top states in the nation in the number of meth lab seizures.

Mr. Moran is a member of the Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine.

Man charged with sexually exploiting a child

A Norton man was arrested Tuesday for allegedly sexually exploiting a child.

William A Wilhite, 42, was taken into custody for questioning Tuesday by the Norton County Sheriff's Department before being arrested and charged with one count of sexual exploitation of a child, said Sheriff Troy Thomson. He is being held on a \$250,000 bond.

The arrest, he said, stems from

an investigation, which began in March, by the Wichita/Sedgwick County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, Ellis County High Technology Crime Unit, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Norton County Sheriff's Department, and the Norton Police Department.

A preliminary hearing was held Thursday, where it was determined that there was sufficient evidence for the charge, he said.

The case is still under investigation, he said, and no further court appearances are set at this time.



Playing a trombone solo, Mathew Shepard entertained the members of Mid-Century Federated Club during their annual Fine Arts Tea. Accompanying him on the piano was Sue Ann Stutheit. Band instructor, David Will, had introduced him.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Annual tea showcases students' talents

The annual Fine Arts Tea, sponsored by Mid-Century Federated Club, was held March 27 in the band room at Norton Community High School.

Master of ceremonies for the evening was Beverly Kindler.

Performing vocal numbers were Tabitha Vincent and Dani Wuest, accompanied by Sonya Montgomery and Cherean Kendall accompanied by Priscilla Kendall.

They were introduced by vocal instructor Valerie Lee.

David Will, band instructor, introduced instrumentalists. They were Mat Shepard and Heath Vincent, accompanied by Sue Ann Stutheit.

Donna Sevrens, introduced pianists Naomi Streck and Mathew Shepard. Mrs. Sevrens is their teacher.

Speaker for the evening was Annette Becker, a junior at the

school. She shared her experiences as a delegate to the United Nations Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Norton Odd Fellows Lodge.

The high school art teacher, Vicki Robinson, invited everyone to examine all the art projects on display in the art room and in the glass cases in the lunch room.

Co-hostesses for the evening were Carolyn Higgason, Ginnie Cannon and Claire Ann Eppinger.

RABIES CLINIC

The City of Norton and Norton Animal Health Center will be sponsoring the annual Rabies Clinic on Friday, April 7, 5-7 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. -12 at the Animal Health Center at 801 N. Holme Street. All shots will be \$12.00 and \$5.00 for City Licenses



UPCOMING EVENTS

**MONDAY, APRIL 10—
Annual Meeting**

**EASTER WEEKEND—
Sat., April 15 and Sun., April 16
No Activities Scheduled**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 21—
Junior High Nights Begin
7:00 to 10:00 P.M.**

THE ROCK

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To set up an appointment, or learn more about the opportunity, please contact the newspaper's publisher, Tom Dreiling, at (785) 877-6908 (daytime) or 877-3823 (evenings).

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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