

Opinion

Mr. Stull is Norton Community High

This is the second of six columns written by retiring staff members of the Norton School District. We thought what they had to say at their retirement reception would also be enjoyed by the readership of The Telegram. We thank Superintendent Mann for his assistance in helping us expand their comments to include all residents in the Norton district.

In Their Own Words

Today: Lary Stull
Lary was born in 1946 to Max and Alberta Stull at Codell, weighing in at 10 pounds, two ounces, the biggest of the couple's five children. He attended grade school in Codell and later educated at Natoma where he graduated from high school in 1964. High school kept him busy, participating in four sports and FFA, and also allowing him to earn many honors and awards. Farming and raising livestock were always a part of the Stull family lifestyle. There was never any time to waste, hence his great work ethic was developed.

principal/athletic director. Lary taught and became the "acting" principal, with the assistance of Gene Wiltfong. They were both used to multi-tasking and made a great pair. Thus began his 28 years as an administrator for the Norton School District. During the 1979-80 school year, the high school principal left and again Lary plus Gene filled two positions simultaneously. The school board decided to leave Lary in the Norton Community High School "chair" that he has had, literally, since that time. (Actually, he said he has had two chairs since being the Norton Community High School principal.)

Lary always had an "open door" policy for the students, parents and faculty, and as a result the office has been a busy place. Pride in being active and involved in student life exemplified and defined his educational philosophy. "It takes excellence in academics, athletics and activities to make a great school," he said. Being at the events and functions that the students performed and participated in gave him an insight into the students' personalities, the quality of preparation and the learning that was taking place.

He continued to believe that, "A dynamic school is built with teamwork. The principal is only a facilitator, the team includes the students, faculty, parents and the community."

Many changes have taken place through the years, but mostly with the "how" and "what" not the "who." Students, youth have only changed fashion, Norton Community High School lockers have changed colors, the track has been resurfaced, etc. But the real and biggest transformation in education has been technology. Technology has dramatically influenced the process. "How" educators present information and assess learning is very different than 34 years ago. Plus, "What" educators know about learning and the learner has made great strides. The laws, regulations and mandates have forced growth and reevaluation of where we are and where we need education to go.

Not only was Lary submerged in the life of Norton Community High School, he played a long role in the Mid-Continent League. Lary served as president of the league for 17 years. He was also the league secretary for two years. He takes great pride in the accomplishments of all the league schools.

Many names recalled
When reflecting back on mentors and motivators in his career, he had to include two spectacular names: Maxine Sebelius and Gene Wiltfong. They pushed, pulled and sustained him through many critical moments. Plus, a generation of educators that made being at Norton Community High School fun, challenging and an honor: Mel Rice, Dave Stuewe, Ford Farber, Doris Winteroth, Ted Stein, Ed Lawrence, LeRoi Dillon, Jep Bryum, Alberta Slaby, Jake Durham, Ron Porter, Roger Wahlmeier, Bruce Minter, Roberta Ryan and Karen Cox.

Plus, the supporting staff that completes a school's function, Glenn Wiltfong and Duane Lane, kept him on his toes. All, along with many others, who have left or retired, added strength, longevity and stability to a history of excellence in the Norton County schools. Two other retired ladies who helped him navigate through the years were Norma Rumford and Maxine Wiltfong, whose roles as secretaries were vital to the daily functioning of school life.

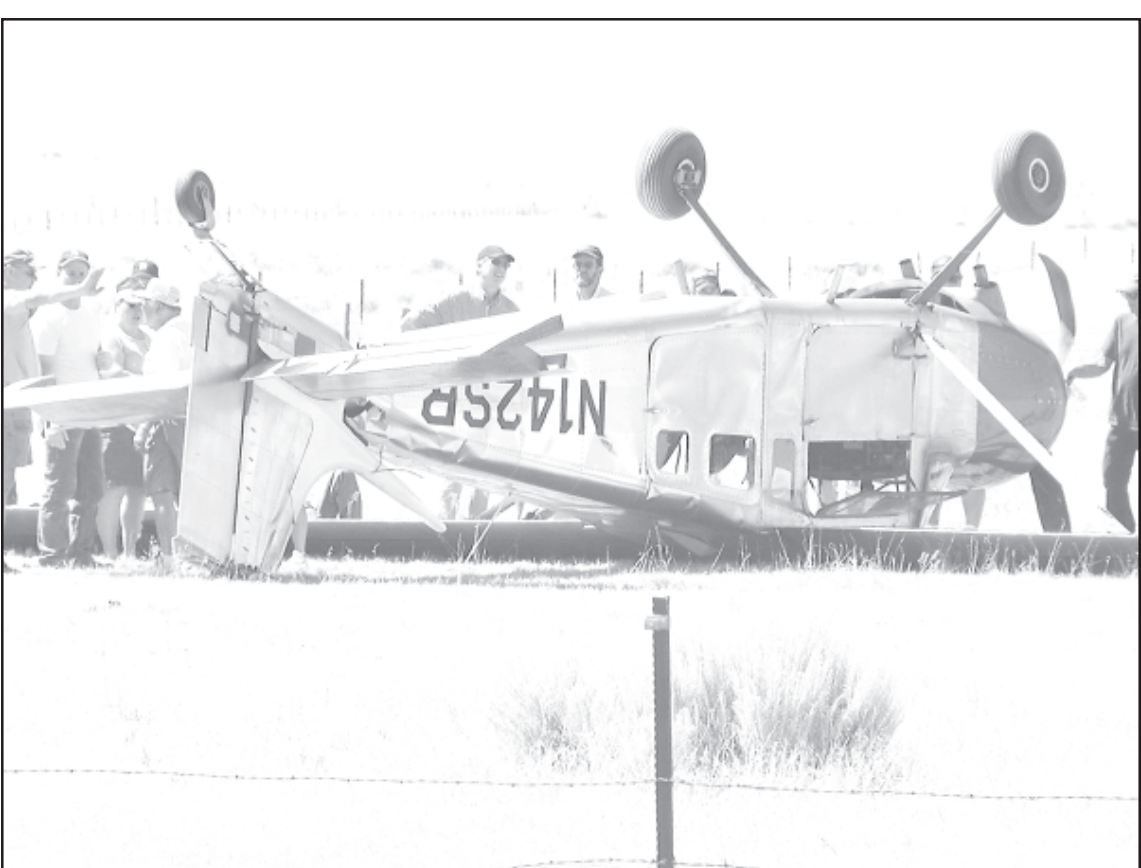
The current faculty and staff has been and is exceptional. Their dedication to meeting and exceeding above average expectations in all departments is outstanding. He feels he is leaving Norton Community High School in very secure, superior hands. There is only one educator on the present staff that he cannot say he was involved in hiring and that is Dale Engelbert. Dale was hired the same year as Lary. He is a peer, a friend and a great "back up administrator" for Lary over the years. Lary will not take responsibility for Kevin Jilka or Jim Green being hired either, since they came to work when Lary was still in the junior high.

Memories flood over anyone who retires and tries to recapture all the names and moments of a career. The excellent guidance from superintendents; collaborating with insightful Norton Junior High and Eisenhower administrators; and working with under-appreciated boards of education who have made and maintained superior standards; all creating decades of high performance and magnificent accomplishments. For these leaders, Lary owes a great debt.

He thanks everyone who challenged, encouraged and supported his efforts to be consistent and fair while looking out for the futures of the youth of Norton.

Very special thanks
Lary especially thanks his family: wife Peggy, an outstanding teacher, wife, mother and "Maga," who, over the years, held the family together, parenting single handed because of the long work hours, and standing by him through many stressful professional and personal situations; daughter Angela, married and teaching, with four beautiful children; and son Mitchell, who is working construction and has a delightful son. They are responsible for giving Lary the retirement he has dreamed of — hours filled with grandchildren and their activities, plus the endless "to-do" lists created by them all! If he's lucky, he does hope to squeeze in some overdue hunting.

Lary extends his gratitude one last time and thanks you for his fabulous journey, in this wonderful community. He is definitely "Proud to be a Norton Blue Jay!"



Ted Waltman of Lakewood, Colo., took off from the Cheyenne County Airport in St. Francis on Saturday during the Stearman Fly-in, but didn't get far in his homemade plane before hitting a barbed wire fence and flipping the plane onto its top. Waltman and his two passengers escaped without injury.

— Photo by Casey McCormick/The St. Francis Herald

No one hurt when plane flips

By KAREN KREIN
A home-built plane left the runway during the Stearman Fly-In in St. Francis about 11 a.m. on Saturday. The plane ended up on its top, but the pilot and two passengers were able to walk away from the accident.

Ted Waltman, Lakewood, Colo., was flying the Murphy Moose plane. He said he built the plane about two years ago and this was his first trip to the Fly-In.

Bob Bixler, St. Francis, and his wife Colleen Shannon, were standing near the end of the north/south runway where Waltman's plane was taking off. Bixler said the plane was about 50 feet in the air heading north when it passed them. He noticed that the engine was losing power and slowing down.

"I said I wonder what he is doing," Mr. Bixler said. "He went a

little farther and I could tell he was in trouble and was going to have to go down."

Planes taking off need to be at full speed when they reach the end of the runway, he said.

Mr. Bixler said the plane landed at the end of the runway still going at a pretty good speed. The plane hit a barbed wire fence which, he said slowed it down, and then the nose hit the dirt and flipped the plane over on its top.

"I thought the pilot did a remarkable job of stopping the plane," Mr. Bixler said, adding that hitting the fence kept the plane from going onto U.S. 36.

Gary Rogers, Cheyenne County emergency preparedness manager, was the first to reach the plane, followed by volunteer firemen, police and state troopers. He said there were no fuel spills and

no injuries.

Federal Aviation Administration officials were contacted. Since there were no injuries and photos were available, they allowed the plane to be removed but it was four hours before the approval came through.

Mr. Rogers said he expected an Federal Aviation Administration official to be in St. Francis sometime this week to investigate the accident and check out the plane, which is in a hangar at the airport. The National Transportation Safety Board also was contacted.

Officials will have to make their investigation, then fill out a report. Until then, the reason for the engine failure is not known and, Robert Grace, manager of the Cheyenne County Airport, said that report may take months before it is completed.

First load taken to elevator

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in with a test weight of 57.5 pounds and a moisture content of 14.9. Driver Alvin Mapes said the load was the result of a test cut and he had no idea what the yield was. The field is located west and south of Norton.

By Thursday, wheat was coming in all day. "Not heavy," said Marvin Slabaugh another Ag-Valley employee. He said the tests have been decent with an average weight between 57 and 60 pounds and moisture between 11.9 and 13.9 percent.

Mr. Slabaugh said it was too early to report on any yields.

Whether harvest kicks into high gear, or not, will depend on rain. It's a "wait-and-see" game.

High school journalists do well in state press contest

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When the final results were tallied, Norton Community High School had placed four entries.

Those individuals who placed entries were Karlie Jones, first place in sports photography; Alyssa Kaus, second place in advertising; Lacy Ellis, second place in information graph; and Amy Husted, honorable mention in newspaper design.

In addition to the outstanding individual achievements, the entire team captured the 3A State Journalism title.

"I am very proud of these students," said sponsor Robin Sides. "They worked extremely hard on their individual projects, and their efforts paid off, not only for them-

selves, but for the entire school."

A trophy for their first place state finish will be presented to the journalism staff at the fall state conference held at Fort Hays State University on Sept. 25.

School makes Box Tops goal

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nate Northern Valley as the school you wish to donate to through purchases at the Box Tops Marketplace. Lastly, apply for the Box Tops Visa card and earn cash for Northern Valley with every single purchase.

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