



Just like she's done for 48 years, Karen Reedy answered the phones at the front desk for Sebelius and Griffiths law firm. Mrs. Reedy will retire Friday. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

# Law firm loses longtime employee to retirement

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Who knew that in 1959, when the fresh-faced, pony-tailed graduating senior from Norton Community High School began working for Keith Sebelius, she would still be working for the same office in 2006.

Karen Reedy was that young girl who was hired by the Norton attorney when he still operated a one-man law firm in the Carter Building.

The office moved in 1981, when he built the Sebelius Building at 105 S. Norton Ave.

When Mrs. Reedy began her career she practiced basic secretarial skills, including oral dictation. That meant she had to take shorthand.

She said Mr. Sebelius always personally dictated his correspondence, never using a dictation machine. She said, "It was an experience. I could almost guess what he was going to say."

She said the office did have an electric typewriter and eventually a memory typewriter; a forerunner of the office computer. She said if you made a mistake — you typed it over. She admitted, "I went through a lot of carbon paper."

Mrs. Reedy embraced the advent of technology. "Computers are so nice and are time-savers," she said. She was self-taught and learned on her own how to operate a computer.

Mr. Sebelius was involved in

politics and Mrs. Reedy helped with all his political campaigns. From the time he ran for State Senator through his bid for the United States Congress, she was there.

She came to enjoy the political process and said it was Mr. Sebelius who encouraged her to become active in the Republican Central Committee. She has been a member for many years.

She said, "My kids learned a lot about the political process during that time. I even took my grandson into the voting booth with me so he could see how it was done."

Now, Mrs. Reedy works for a second-generation Sebelius — Doug Sebelius and his law partner, Karen Griffiths.

But, after 48 years, she is ready to retire. Doug said, "I've tried to encourage her to re-think retirement. But, she's made up her mind."

He said he has been associated with Mrs. Reedy since he began working at the firm in 1976.

He said, "You couldn't find a more loyal person. She defines what loyalty in the workplace means. She's like part of the family. I know she certainly helped me — taught me how to do a lot of things. She would have made a good lawyer."

He added that a number of people who called the office wanted advice, only from her.

Mrs. Reedy said she has seen a

lot of things in the law office and met all kinds of people. She said, "People have been gracious to me; the public and the ones I've worked with."

Perhaps the most drastic change she has seen in the workplace is office attire. She said, "When I first started working, you would have never thought of wearing anything but a dress or a skirt and blouse. Now, we have casual Friday."

When asked what she would miss most about working, she said, without hesitation, "The people. The contact and the challenges of the job."

However, Mrs. Reedy is a woman of many interests and plans to devote more time to her hobbies of needlepoint, e-mailing friends and family, quilting and counted cross-stitch.

She has served on the Andbe Home board of directors; is an officer in the American Legion Auxiliary; and was secretary of the Senior Citizens board for a number of years.

She and her husband, Gene, have two grown children; Steve Reedy who works for the city and daughter, Denise Jasinski, who lives in Crossville, Tenn. The Reedys have two grandsons and two step-grandsons.

Doug Sebelius paid her a fitting tribute when he said, "She took care of business."

# Scam finagling 'secret shoppers'

By TOM DREILING

It's no 'secret' anymore. It seems that each new day brings a new scam, and the latest one was found in the classified ad section of some of the state's newspapers and dealt with becoming a "Secret Shopper."

Atty. Gen. Phill Kline told *The Norton Telegram* and every other news outlet in the state that his Consumer Protection Division has received numerous complaints about a shopping scam being run by a company out of Canada.

Attorney General Kline said the scam seems to begin innocently enough when Kansans responded to a classified ad in their local

newspaper looking for secret shoppers.

"But that's where anything legal under Kansas law ends," the attorney general said.

The company goes by several names, and sends respondents wanting the job a packet that includes a cashier's check. The company asks the respondents to cash the check and wire most of the money back to them. A few days later those hoping to become secret shoppers learn the check is bogus and they owe their banks the money.

The attorney general said Kansas consumers should be wary of any company or persons who send

them a check or money order that they don't know personally, especially if that company is located outside the United States.

"Always give your bank a full 10 days to evaluate any such document, for sometimes it takes that long for the bank to catch a fraud," he said.

If you believe you have fallen victim of this scam, or any other scam, contact Kline's Consumer Protection Office at 1-800-432-2310.

Holiday tip: You might make sure the Santa coming to your house is the real deal. Scams come in all sorts of disguises.

## NORCATUR NEWS

By NORCATUR NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Ted Hansen tells us, "I love the paper!" He reports that his wife, Ethel, is improving slowly, and is in rehab. Ted had jewelry stores in both Ellinwood and Great Bend from 1957 to 1977. Mail will reach them at Smoky Lane Condo #6113, Box 3595, Mesquite, Nev., 89024.

A ladies' leather coat was left at the Norcatour Methodist Church after the funeral of Ona VanGundy on Tuesday, Dec. 12. If you think it's yours, call (785) 693-4231.

The Royal Neighbors annual Christmas dinner was held Wednesday, Dec. 13, at noon at the Cardinal Bar and Grill in Norcatour.

Present for the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Price, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Woods, Mr. and Mrs. Al Sedlmayer, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Arnold, Estella Harold, Sandi Gade, Doris Auker, Beth Johnson, Arlene Hix, Bee Nelson and Crystal Moore. Instead of the usual gift exchange, club members brought items for the food bank. After the delicious dinner, cards were signed.

Lee and Lora Arnold hosted a birthday dinner on Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Cardinal Bar and Grill for granddaughter Julianna Baker and niece Mary Arnold.

Senior Citizens met Friday, Dec. 15, with 18 present. Winners were

Marguerite Clark, Kathy Van Meter and Bee Nelson. Next meeting will be Friday, Dec. 29, with a potluck dinner at 12:30 p.m. at the Educational Building. Cards will follow.

Birthdays and anniversaries: Jim Bob Beachel, Frank Ward, Sandy Gade, Carissa Wentz - Dec. 22; Ronald Anderson - Dec. 25; Fred Molzahn - Dec. 26; Mary Irwin - Dec. 30; Beth Sebaugh, Galen and Jamie Wentz - Dec. 31; John and Cristy Baker - Jan. 1; Darrel Barnett, Megan Wentz - Jan. 2; Chris Dempewolf, Jeff and Lori Roe - Jan. 3; Mike Mapes - Jan. 6; Debbie Marshall - Jan. 7; Debra Helm - Jan. 8.

Rea and Dee Magers, and Jeff Magers drove to Hays on Dec. 1 and visited with Marion Long at St. John's Nursing Home. His wife, Lorraine, is next door in the Independent Living apartments, so everyone had a nice visit with Marion at St. John's. Tom Long, a son of the Longs, arrived for a visit shortly before the Magers headed home. They were very pleased and impressed as to what a nice facility St. John's is. The Longs recently moved to Hays from their home near New Almelo.

On Dec. 10-12, Alice Shirley was visited by her granddaughter, Jessica Hill of Oklahoma City, and her son-in-law, Gary McClelland of Shawnee, Okla.

Wedding Reception

Your presence is requested to help celebrate a new beginning for Beverly J. Morris and Rocky D. DeLano. A reception in their honor will be held Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2007, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Main Street Inn, 1001 Main Street, Hoxie.

Museum Tidbits

Kenneth and Pansy Price have donated a metal bank Pansy had as a little girl. The bank has a metal plate on it that says: "Citizen's State Bank, The savings habit is a good habit, Norcatour, Kansas." It's awesome!

Tille Shirley has brought a Kansas centennial (1961) bow tie worn by Ray Stapp, pictures of Ray and Emma Stapp in Centennial attire (1961), a No. 46 Norcatour centennial belt buckle, a United Methodist Church community directory from 2000, a 1995 Norcatour High School alumni directory, a 1961 Diamond Jubilee Celebration book, a 1986 Norcatour Centennial book (No. 18) with Mike Shirley embossed on the front cover, and a 1976 bicentennial plate.

This year we have had 142 items donated to the Norcatour Museum, for a total of 303 items plus many pens and memorial obituary cards.

Reminder: The Norcatour News will not be printed again until Jan. 9, 2007

Thanks for reading The Norton Telegram

James E. Reeves DPM, P.A.  
Podiatrist — Foot Specialist  
Norton Hospital Specialty Clinic  
**Tuesday, January 30**  
1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Phone (785) 877-3351



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