

Kansas doing quite well with 'old' license plates

Kansas has somehow survived the state's failure to make everyone switch to the new, if dull, light blue license plates.

In fact, drivers with the 2002-issued "capital dome" tags are still getting along just fine. These tags, made of aluminum and covered with reflective sheeting, are nowhere near worn out. They could last another decade, maybe two.

The Department of Revenue had planned to replace all tags between 2007 and 2009, with the blue "Ad Astra" tags. The rationale was that people who get by without paying for new tags would have to do so once the white tags were outlawed.

Then came the budget crunch. The state just couldn't afford to issue new tags for everyone. So it didn't.

And the world has not come to an end. Aside from the fact that the "capital dome" tag, with its hints of yellow wheat and blue sky above, is one of the most attractive our state has ever issued, these tags really should be good for 30-40 years.

It would be an environmental sin to replace them just because some bureaucrat figures that it would make it easier for the cops to spot scofflaws.

If they wanted to do something to push enforcement, why not make those tiny expiration stickers just a tad bigger? Too easy, we guess.

Anyway, the "dome" tags soldier on. In fact, the last couple of tag designs before that could still be in service. They're pretty much indestructible unless you use them to stop a trailer hitch.

The real question is, why not just let people keep tags as long as they're legible? That might just save the state more money than it could make from improved enforcement.

California has left its tags in use for decades at a time. So have some other states. There's no magic in changing the design every couple of years, not at the cost of making all new plates.

The way the budget is today, Kansas has plenty of priorities beyond new license tags.

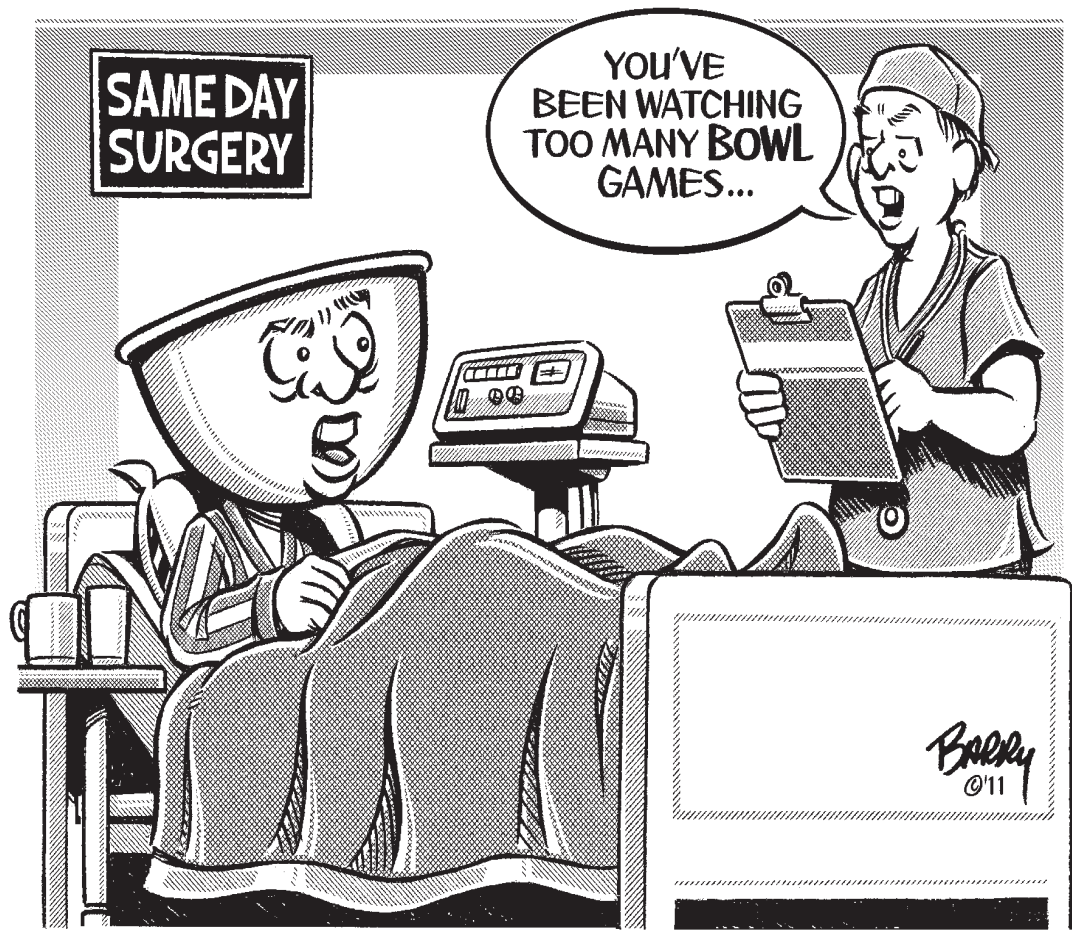
—Steve Haynes

PS: Let us add a prayer to the Revenue Department to do a slight edit on the new "In God We Trust" tags designed by a Colby couple.

While attractive, these tags are simply unreadable due to the use of outline type on the state and slogan. They look great on paper, but on a car, you can't read them.

The state should be able to fill in the type without creating a whole new master for this tag.

Then, you could read the message — and sales of these tags would take off. It probably won't happen until the lettering is changed, however. No use paying extra for a slogan no one can read.



News From the Past

15 years ago December 1995

The Indians had three championships at the St. Francis Wrestling Tournament. Winning championships were Gabe Jenkins at 103 pounds, Scott Jenkins at 112 pounds and Bill Gabel at 135 pounds. St. Francis as a team placed third. Scott Jenkins was named the Outstanding Tournament Wrestler.

Three new board members were elected at the annual Cheyenne County Development Corporation meeting. Elected were Gerald Wright, Don Ayre, both of Bird City and Tom Keller of St. Francis.

January 1996

The St. Francis junior high girls will be presenting a musical entitled "Gone With The Breeze" Jan. 9, at the high school.

Omer Abdullah M.D. has signed a three-year contract to practice primary care medicine in Cheyenne County.

Ty Jay Carmichael is the winner of the First Baby of the Year Contest in Cheyenne County. The son of Wade and Tammy Carmichael was born on Jan. 6.

Play practice for The Music Man is being held regularly as the actors gear up for the February performance.

The fourth through sixth grade basketball league got underway on Jan. 6.

Kids wrestling practice for boys fourth through sixth grades began Jan. 8.

Stewards of the soil will be recognized at the 46th annual Cheyenne County Conservation District dinner to be held at the high school. Receiving

the Bankers Award are Bill and Joan Wellman. The Windbreak Awards were earned by Dan and Rita Stephens and Royce and Jan Rambat. Recognized for the Goodyear Awards are Bruce and Sharon Feiket and Ruben and Darlene Feikert. Drew Flemming was a state limerick award winner.

Area residents will help Kansas celebrate its 135 birthday on Jan. 29, at the 66 annual Kansas Day Celebration in Bird City. The theme of this year's celebration is "Collection of Memories."

30 years ago - 1981

A committee is in the process of being formed to discuss the possibility of having a home-owned carnival for the Cheyenne County Fair. Representative of the Cheyenne County Fair Board and the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce met on Jan. 16, with several representatives of the Decatur County group running that county's home-owned carnival. Glenn Glasco is the president of the Cheyenne County Fair Board.

Governor John Carlin has announced the appointment of John G. Kite to the Advisory Council of the Kansas Arts Commission.

40 years ago - 1971

Consolidated Freightways has indicated that they will begin their operations out of St. Francis later this month. The 20 families who will move to St. Francis have been selected and several of those families have already been to St. Francis seeking housing.

There is a change of owner-

ship at Majestic. Henry Persinger and Larry Wilson purchased the business and building on Highway 36 and have moved their Precision Engine and Machine Service to their new building. The new owners are dropping the sale of new cars. Elmer Felzien will continue to sell used cars from the location.

Carl Sperry, Superintendent of Schools, was awarded a new three-year contract at the Board of Education meeting.

Just one story remains of the two-story house on the elementary school property south of the grade school building. The house is being torn down to make room for more parking and playground space.

Award winners to be honored at the Cheyenne County Soil Conservation District meeting in Bird City include the Gene Pianalto family of Bird City and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wilkens of Benkelman who will receive the Bankers Awards; and Mr. and Mrs. Thad Douthit who will receive the Goodyear Award.

Mr. E.L. "Bud" Boardman, owner of Boardman's Toggery, this week announces the beginning of a quitting business sale. Mr. Boardman has operated the Toggery in St. Francis for 55 years.

100 years ago - 1911

S.H. Kemp has purchased the old laundry building and four lots from Curry Brothers and will engage in the coal business. He is building his bins this week and expects to be ready for business by the last of next week.

Hangin' With Marge

Leveling the Camper

By Margaret Bucholtz



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I really don't like routine, yet it doesn't take long until life becomes the same no matter where you are. It is like stopping for the night while we were on our trip.

First thing we had to find a spot. Now that could mean either a campsite or if we were just stopping for the night we hunted for a Walmart.

The first night out we parked between two large refrigerated semis, but it didn't take only the one time before we knew better than that. Two trucks running engines all night doesn't make for a good night's sleep.

One night at a Walmart in Pennsylvania, we parked at a Walmart lot and thank heavens we pulled in at the right angle. In the east there

are hills everywhere and that night we parked with our heads going uphill. Now it wasn't just a little hump it was one that when you got out of bed to go to the bathroom you felt like you were running down a ramp at the airport in Denver.

On the nights we parked at campground it didn't take long until I knew what it was that was my job and we each headed to do what had to be done. With Kurt, you watch, wait and learn because talking just isn't his thing. I would get out the little yellow things that went under the wheels as he checked to see how level we were. Everyday he would tell me just how many levels I would need to put under the tires. I re-

ally didn't think it was necessary to level it that night so I went over and looked at this yellow plate. Sure enough the little ball was in the center. Thinking I had finally found out how to do that I announced that it wasn't unlevelled. He looked at me and I firmly said, "Kurt the ball is in the center."

He walked over and looked at me, looked at the yellow plate and said, "Margaret, you aren't serious are you? That is a yellow light reflector and the ball is the light bulb."

I should have known better. Like he always tells me, "Sometimes you are right."

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Change is one of those things in life that is inevitable. I've reached a point in my life's journey where a fork in the road will take me to another job.

After so many years with the newspaper this was not an easy decision to make. I have met many interesting and fine folks because of my position with the Bird City Times and Saint Francis Herald. The papers have opened many doors.

Also, the many readers have

gotten to know me and my family through this column. We've shared laughs, tears and "head scratchers" with each Thursday's issues.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading my "Comments." Whether you have agreed or not (and I've usually heard when you haven't) I have had one main goal. — that is to take a few minutes to entertain. Ideally, with a variety of topics presented in a not-too-serious manner, that end has been reached

from time to time.

I am grateful that my publisher has asked that I keep writing. Luckily, my new work will keep me in Cheyenne County and I can send them with my beloved Lezlie.

It's been my pleasure getting to know you and I look forward to still being in your newspapers!

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Marty Lorusso, Westminster, Colo.; Morita Truman, St. Francis; Gary Neilan, Las Cruces, N.M.; Jim and Carol O'Brien, Chula Vista, Calif.; Kenneth Knitig, Rapid City, S.D.; Ralph Ostmeyer, Topeka; Elaine Gerdes, Early, Iowa; Joy Rae Hunter, Saginaw, Mich.; Toby Dirks, St. Francis;

GOD SAYS

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.

Isaiah 65:25

The Saint Francis Herald

(USPS 475-960)

A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year \$38 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$28 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050



Nor'West Newspapers

8:30 a.m. - noon - 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

(785) 332-3162 Fax - (785) 332-3001

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Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
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Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8:30 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

United Methodist
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Communion 3rd Sunday

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion -
Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jerry Nowack
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

St. Francis Equity

Saint Francis Herald

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