



Co-op reports profit in 2010

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

The St. Francis Equity had a successful year in 2010 with total earnings of \$635,623. Patronage dividends of \$496,550 will be distributed to Equity stockholders in the coming weeks. Checks were also passed out following the annual Equity meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 9.

Greg Daughhetee, auditor with Lindburg and Vogel, Hays, congratulated the patrons and board for an outstanding year. There were a lot of reversals in commodity prices, he said. Grain and fertilizer had a major impact on earnings. The Equity had local earnings of \$516,397.

Steve Yost, president of the board, welcomed the crowd and introduced the board and their spouses. The customers were served a dinner of steak with all the trimmings topped off with apple cobbler.

During her report, Ms. Lohman recognized the employees for their hard work and dedication. She thanked the board for their time and leadership. She also had a power-point presentation showing the facilities, operations, equipment, and employees of the Equity.

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MAKING VALENTINES were Allison Rice and Liberty Velazquez. Hearts were among the items sent to a platoon of servicemen.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Board looks at school finances

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karen.k@nwkansas.com

Once again, the St. Francis Board of Education looked at the figures which are being projected by the state legislature. And, once again, the outlook is gloomy.

Superintendent Rob Schiltz said he expects the state aid money coming to the St. Francis schools this year to be cut an additional \$38,000. The school is already using \$424,000 out of the Local Option Budget. Next year, there could be an additional \$118,000 cut in state aid. These numbers are based on the number of students attending school this year and could possibly keep staff and services the same.

The additional money will need to come from somewhere, Mr. Schiltz said.

St. Francis schools offer a wide variety of classes including music, art, industrial arts, ag shop, just to name some. With the Kansas State Assessments, students will be expected to be in the 90-percentile level. The three part-time teachers in the grade school play an important part in helping the school reach that level, said Scott Carmichael, principal.

Mr. Schiltz said that another option would be to cut the cash balances. He listed three funds (Special Education, Contingency

Reserve and Professional Development) that could be reduced to come up with the money needed. He said he thought that the school would be OK for a year with these funds reduced.

Actually, there were three ways the schools could meet the loss of state money: 1) raise the local option budget; 2) reduce cash balances; and 3) cut staff or, Mr. Schiltz suggested, it could be a combination of the three.

Mr. Schiltz said the school board has never wanted to raise taxes if it could be helped.

The matter will again be on the agenda at the March 10 meeting and board members will be asked to make some decisions.

School projects

At the last meeting, the superintendent reviewed several building projects to be done this summer. The money for these projects will come out of the Capital Improvement Fund and included refinishing the gym floor, putting in a ceiling and lights in the elementary school hallways, replacing gym lights, front doors in the high school and hot water heater at the high school.

Ed Marin, board member, said some of the projects were energy-saving and would pay for themselves. Mr. Schiltz said they had

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Open house set at nursing home

An open house is being planned at the Good Samaritan Village, St. Francis. The community is welcome to attend the event from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 27.

People will be able to tour the renovated east and west wings and learn about the future plans for the Village.

"I would like to invite all of our friends to come and see the renovated sections of the center," said Jeff Paulsen, administrator at the Village. "I look forward to answering any questions about upcoming plans and to express our gratitude to the community for their continuing support for long-term care services in Cheyenne County."

A fire on Oct. 19, caused extensive damage to the St. Francis Village building and there were 48 residents who were placed in neighboring nursing homes. Some

went to other Good Samaritan Society centers, some went to neighboring long-term care centers and some went home. Many of the staff dispersed to work at those centers.

The Village has begun phase one of the building recovery process, which includes the renovation of 22 units for residents, kitchen renovations and new flooring, paint and communications systems.

Phase one is expected to be complete by March 1. In phase two, the center plans to finish 10 more units for a total of 32 resident beds by May 1.

Mr. Paulsen noted that the resident beds are due to arrive on Friday and handrails are being installed.

To check out the progress, plan to attend the open house on Feb. 27.

Sweethearts recognized



By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

For the last three weeks, a ballot has appeared in *The Saint Francis Herald* allowing people to vote for their favorite married couple. Last year, there were not as many ballots put in the boxes and, this year, it looked like it was going to be the same. The weather had been cold and snowy which might have kept people at home but, in the last week of the contest, the ballots came in.

When the ballots were totaled, Albert and Bessie Burr were the Valentine couple. They received a bouquet of flowers from Prairie Rose Floral. Last year's couples were Robert and Gertie Zwegardt and Mark and Gwen Keller.

This year, there was only one couple selected. The rule was that the couple had to have been married 50 or more years.

Some of the other couple nomi-

nations (not in order) included: Jack and Marge Lampe, Junior and Verda Smull, Marvin and Veda Orth, Harold and Pat Madsen, Rueben and Valjean Schultz, Larry and Faye Carmichael, Charles and Dixie Curry, Raymond and Bonnie Armknecht.

This is the third year for the Valentine contest. There were 10 businesses participating: Prairie Rose Floral, Hilltop General Store/Up-town Market, Saintry Liquor, Owens True Value, Krien Pharmacy, Stuart's Jewelry, Donna's Gift Palace, Saintry Super's, Video Kingdom, and The Herald.

"I thought the contest generated a lot of interest and people had fun submitting the names of their favorite couple," said Allen Edgington, ad manager.

He added that the contest would not have been possible if it were not for the businesses who helped sponsor it.



Albert and Bessie Burr on their wedding day.

Lester celebrates 102nd



LESTER CONFER celebrated his 102nd birthday with family including his granddaughter, Kari Krien Peter. Others gathering at the Gaylord and Glenda Krien home were Dustin Krien, Tracy, Kylie and Tracen Peter, Chanell Peter, David and DeAndrea Krien and Ferdinand Krien.

Married 67 years

Albert and Bessie Burr were married at the Zion Lutheran Church on Dec. 25, 1943, in a double wedding with Bessie's twin sister, Jessie, and George Schield.

We were married early in the morning, Albert remembered, because we had to get home and milk the cows.

The Burrs spent the first year of their married life on the farm. They were used to farming as they had both grown up on farms and were used to milking lots of cows.

Albert and Bessie had met while they were in high school but they didn't start dating until Bessie was a senior. Albert had graduated two years before. They said they didn't remember their first day, nor did they remember when they decided to get married - it was just taken for granted that they were getting married.

After a year on the farm, the moved to Denver where Albert worked for Continental Airline. They lived in a tiny mobile home in her sister's backyard.

That same year, Albert was drafted into the Navy. After spending time on a ship, he was discharged. Bessie had gone to Great

Lakes Naval Training Center, Chicago to pick him up.

We were so excited, Bessie said. Then, shortly outside the base, they were stopped by a cop which quickly put a damper on the moment. However, Albert said they were just checking his identification, then they were on their way home to St. Francis.

They arrived in St. Francis on Friday and on Monday, he started working at the St. Francis Equity. For the next 40 years, he drove the Equity's gas truck.

Bessie stayed at home with their two children Sheryl and Steve. Later, she did secretarial work and was the city librarian. She said she loved working in the library. It was before computers and when it was time for high school students to write themes, the librarians would help them find information.

War time had left a shortage of lumber. Albert had found a house around Vernon, Colo., and had it moved to the present location at 404 S. Benton Street.

We completely gutted it, Bessie said. We remodeled it and put new windows in and we have lived here ever since.



Albert and Bessie Burr today

One of the highlights of their lives was a cruise for their 60th anniversary. Their daughter, Sheryl, had taken them and the entire family on the cruise.

Today, Sheryl lives in Mesa, Ariz., and Steve lives in Manhattan. The Burrs have five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Their advice to young couples

is to worship the Lord and not to fight. They said that while they might have had some disagreements, they did not fight.

Bessie said she grew up with a church background and her mother was a firm believer in practicing the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you."