



## Raising the speed limit bad idea for rural areas

One of the worst bills to come up in the current session of the Kansas Legislature is one to raise the speed limit on four-lane divided highways to 75 mph.

This may sound like a feel-good exercise in freedom, allowing people to drive just a little faster, but it is a dagger aimed at the heart of our rural towns.

While it may be appealing to be able to get to Hays a few minutes faster, the net result will be to divert even more traffic off of two-lane highways, where the state has excess capacity out here, and concentrate it on the freeways. And those can get pretty crowded in some areas.

Less traffic on the two-lane roads means less business in our towns. And the towns on the Interstate already have most of the business as is.

On a trip to Kansas City, driving 75 mph rather than 70 might save 15 to 20 minutes. The change could cost rural Kansas towns millions in lost sales over the next decade. We doubt the time saving is worth the pain, but unfortunately, little consideration has been given to rural needs in this debate.

The 70 mph speed limit on Kansas freeways

and expressways was carefully thought out back in 1996, after the government finally allowed states to raise their limits. Sen. Stan Clark, who represented this area at the time, and other rural legislators crafted a 5 mph differential to keep some traffic on the two-lane roads.

Now that agreement is about to be undone by a bill that seemingly appeared out of nowhere. Most legislators voting today may never head heard of the agreement created back then, or the reasoning behind it.

Worse yet, the bill would effectively establish an 85 mph limit on our freeways. One provision would establish the "grace" allowance for speeders at 10 mph, rather than the 5 mph often used by officers today.

The combined result would be a 15 mph increase in the allowable speed on our Interstates and four-lane state routes. That's way too much.

We'd all be better off - and safer - if we just leave things the way they are.

Rural towns have taken enough hits without this added insult. Leave the speed limit alone, please.

- Steve Haynes



## News From the Past

### 15 years ago - 1996

Andy Poling has been invited to play on the western team at the Kansas Shrine Bowl in August.

Bill Gabel's high school wrestling career ended with a pin and his fourth state championship. His win made him the first Kansas high school wrestler to ever become a four-time state champion in 3-2-1A.

### 35 years ago - 1976

Cindy Grace has been named St. Francis Community High School's 1976 Betty Crocker Family Leader of Tomorrow.

A total of 71 head of bulls were sold for \$68,885 at the annual Quality Cut Hereford Sale at the heated sale pavilion at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds on Feb. 3. Sale manager John Finley reported that the average price of the bulls was \$970.

Approximately 300 persons attended the 46th annual Cheyenne County Kansas Day celebration at the Bird City American Legion hall. It was the 115th anniversary of Kansas statehood. The theme was "The Heritage Of Our People 1776-1976."

The Cheyenne County Ministerial Alliance is sponsoring a County Easter Cantata to be presented in the Bird City School on April 13, and the St. Francis School on April 14. The Cantata, "No Greater Love" is the Easter story with narrations from the scriptures.

Jamie Jolliffe, Mitchell Hilt, Danny Penton and Kenny Kuhns received their Tenderfoot ratings at the Boy Scout Ceremonies held by Troop 120.

Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis last week finalized the installation of a complete overhead fire sprinkle system. According to Larry Lafrenzin, administrator

of the nursing home, the cost of the project was \$27,000.

Senior basketball players were honored at Parents Night at the final ball game of the year. Honored were Joya Weems, Cindy Grace, Ed Smalley, Terry Miller, Stu Edmundson and Dave Lewis.

Three former St. Francis wrestlers who are now wrestling at Colby Community College, were honored along with other members of the Colby squad at a reception at the college following the squad's romping of Garden City. Former Indians include Perry Keller, Mike Frewen and Brad Schneider.

### 75 years ago - 1936

Lowest bidder on the new 1,080-foot bridge to be erected across the Republican River immediately west of St. Francis on U.S. Highway 36 was the Omaha Steel Works.

Work on the new \$45,000 addition to the St. Francis grade school building will begin Monday according to information received by the grade school board the first of the week. The contract calls for completion of the building in 120 working day.

A huge crowd enjoyed the operetta, "Honey Pirates," given by nearly 200 grade and kindergarten pupils under the direction of Miss Annabelle Reinhold, music director in the grades.

The Christian Endeavor Society of the Christian Church indulged in a skating party on Christmas Eve out on Cherry Creek.

### 100 years ago - 1911

L.C. Pettis will be in St. Francis Feb. 2, 3, 4 and 6 to do all kinds of veterinary surgery and dental work at Reinhold's livery barn.

Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Curry of

Lawn Ridge are both enthusiastic over the new church at Lawn Ridge.

Dorsey DeGood has commenced the erection of a large residence on the south east corner of Scott Street and Emerson Avenue.

Thursday afternoon a crowd of friends and neighbors gathered at the home of Mrs. Kellum and gave her a surprise birthday party.

High school notes: English IV is finishing Spencer's "Faerie Queen" this week. The freshmen will begin physical geography this week. English I will finish the book of Ivanhoe in a few days and then will take up the Ancient Mariner. The seniors have completed psychology and are now puzzling over angles and planes of solid geometry.

C. G. Harrison of the Harrison Mercantile Company went to St. Joseph, Mo., to purchase spring goods.

The Christian ladies are reported to have cleared over \$50 at their bazaar and meals last Saturday.

R.M. Roberts moved his barber shop back to his own building last Friday. He enlarged the room by removing a partition, installed an elegant new fountain lavatory and has altogether the best appointed shop in all northwest Kansas.

Deroy Danielson has installed the heating plant in his new cottage and has a force of men at work putting on the finish.

The American History Class "quartette" at the high school has been discussing politics this week. They will probably take advantage of the right to vote if the "Women's Suffrage Bill" passes.

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

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We are on this planet for a very finite time.

The feeling that life is short becomes clearer as we get older. I speak from experience.

I recently heard someone say that we all should "Pass the important lessons on to the next generation."

This rang a chord with me as a parent. Although our children will ultimately face life on life's terms, we give them advice to help them

avoid bad situations. The more we can push them to making good decisions rather than bad seems normal to most moms and dads.

Our perspective comes from our own personal history. If we made a wrong turn along the way we remember it and don't want our kids to follow that path.

It makes sense to expand this to a broader context. If our generation can help the next, wouldn't it be a good idea?

If we take our personal histories and look at it on a larger canvas,



By Casey McCormick

can't we see as a society what we did right or wrong?

This might sound like a monumental task. But it can be done in a very simple way.

All of us leave an impact with our lives, whether we choose to believe it or not. So by making our world a little better than it was before us, wouldn't that help the next generation?

## The Gardener

Kay Melia

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Of one thing we can be sure; the wind will blow this week, and quite possibly the next week, [and the next]. Seems like the wind has been blowing all winter. It probably seems that way because it actually has.

We live in the eighth windiest spot in the entire nation, with a year-around average of 12.6 miles per hour. The Dodge City area is the second windiest spot nationwide with an average of 14 mph, and the second and third winners are Amarillo, Texas, and Cheyenne, Wyo., respectively. Mt. Washington, New Hampshire wins top honors.

You would think that we western Kansans would get used to the wind after living here all these years, but it's difficult to do that. It is windy so often around here that when we get that occa-

sional calm day, we worry that something is seriously wrong in the atmosphere and a storm must be brewing!

Let I be accused of being a bit windy, let us get on to more important aspects of the approaching gardening season, such as all the small tasks we need to undertake that we sometimes tend to overlook. So, here are a few friendly reminders.

I'm going to sharpen my hoe sometime in the next few days. There is nothing worse than a dull hoe, so I will soon grab my big file and do some sharpening.

Depending on the weather, if it isn't too windy, I will roll my rototiller out of the shed and spend some time cleaning it up. I will change the oil, install a new spark plug, and thoroughly clean or replace the air filter. The tines on the old Troy-Bilt are badly worn but they will have to serve

for another year.

And then I'll perform the same jobs on my two mowers both the old push type and the newer rider. I'll do a general cleanup on them both, and also check for possible blade sharpening or replacement. I don't want any mower trouble during the busy season.

You know what? If the ground isn't too wet next week, I might even plow some of the garden, especially the area where I will plant the early crops such as onions, radishes, peas, and potatoes.

No big deal if I don't get that job done, but it would make the soil much mellower and easier to plant when the time comes.

If I get all those jobs done in the next week, I'll be surprised. I don't move as quickly as I used to, so I'll have to start early and work late. At least until afternoon nap time.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Meta Dankenbring, Bird City; Michael Holliman, Wichita; Terry Holliman, Happy Valley, Ore.; Marlin Burr, St. Francis; John Knodel, St. Francis; Bob Elliott, St. Francis; Dan Sowers, Bird City; Fred Stasser, St. Francis; Bill Wilson Accounting, St. Francis; Lyle Lukas, Wray, Colo.; Rowland Roelfs, St. Francis;

**GOD SAYS**

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

*Romans 14:10-12*

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