



Changes in mail times will affect business here

Proposed changes in mail processing will affect all the surrounding post offices that send mail to Colby to be sorted before it goes out of the area.

The U.S. Postal Service is studying a plan to move the processing of mail to Salina for both Colby and Hays sectional centers. A Postal Service official was quick to say this would not close the Colby post office, which is the hub of a 11-county area.

What he did say is the change would move the collection times for surrounding post offices up by two to three hours. That means - if the change is approved - any mail not at the Oberlin post office by 2:45 p.m. would not go out until the next day. Currently, the truck leaves here just after 5:05 p.m. with mail going to Colby. That's 2 hours, 20 minutes out of a business day.

The proposed change would not mean all the mail would go to Salina to be processed. Local mail would stay in town. Mail for the 677 zip code would remain in Colby to be processed. For businesses in most of northwest Kansas, though, a majority of the mail stays in this zip area, but it will have to be on the same outbound trucks as the mail going on to Salina.

Businesses, and this newspaper, depend on timely delivery by the Postal Service, but the collection time change may cause some serious problems. The change amounts to moving the mail deadline into the middle of the business day, rather than near the end. It will disrupt many offices.

At the newspaper, we will be looking at options. It is hard to think about moving everything up three hours to get the same delivery as we enjoy now. It could be expensive, too.

This is the latest in a long line of problems facing the U.S. Postal Service and the millions

who depend on the delivery of mail around the country.

Benjamin Franklin was the first postmaster general, appointed by the Continental Congress, and he worked to make improvements in postal routes and improved frequency of delivery. Franklin believed the post office was an important link in keeping the colonies informed and for delivering the news.

The Department of the Post Office, authorized in article I of the U.S. Constitution, lost money for 139 of the first 161 years. Congress provided a subsidy of up to 20 percent to help the service break even.

In 1970, the department was transformed into the U.S. Postal Service and became a government corporation, to run independently and, hopefully, make money, or at least break even.

Since then, changes in technology and rising costs have eaten into the amount of mail the post office moves. At a meeting in Colby, one official said the reason for moving the processing to Salina was to save money because that office has excess capacity and it would be more efficient to process outbound mail from Hays and Colby in Salina.

Today there are newer forms of delivery, and some are certainly faster or more efficient, but when you think about the cost of cell phones, computers or an Internet connection, the price of mailing something tangible to a friend is cheaper and more personal.

We believe the Postal Service is as vital today as when the Constitution was written. The corporation may be "too big to fail" with the country looking at a horrendous debt, but if we do not help the Postal Service, we may find ourselves back in the days of weekly rather than daily delivery.

- Tom Betz



News From the Past

90 years ago - 1921

The Harrison Mercantile Co., has purchased the general store of E. L. Dobb's at McDonald. This gives the Harrisons a line of three general stores. St. Francis, Bird City and McDonald.

At an early hour Wednesday morning the large barn on the Jacob Reickert farm, 6 miles west of town, caught fire and was completely destroyed.

County Attorney Dowling and Sheriff Stephens raided an illegal still last Monday and captured about five barrels of mash together with the still, in fact they took two stills.

On Friday someone unlocked the back door of Mrs. Kreuzscher book and stationary store and

emptied the drawer of \$5 in change.

The members of the Pathfinder Committee of the new cross country highway to run from Norton to Denver met in Atwood and they have named it "The Denver Highway."

The boys of the Cheyenne County High School gave their minstrel show last Friday night to a crowded house, the receipts being about \$275.

One of the finest country churches in these parts is now being erected one half mile south of the Charlie Kirkland ranch. The building has a full basement for the accommodation of the activities of the young folks and other departments of the church.

It is strictly modern throughout and will cost when completed in the neighborhood of \$7,000.

75 years ago - 1936

The record for high price for a team of horses goes to Philip Kinen, Cheyenne County farmer, living northwest of St. Francis, who recently sold a team of mares for \$600. Philip has been specializing in purebred Belgian horses for some time.

"The Saucy Hollandaise" is the title of the operetta to be presented by the students of the upper grades of the St. Francis grade school.

Pouring of concrete on the first floor of the new addition to the St. Francis grade school building has begun.

Reader remembers her graduation

Letter to the Editor:

As I experienced the graduation of 2008, I remembered my own ceremony in 1944. World War II was the central focus of our lives as the men and boys were being drafted to serve in the armed forces. There were shortages of materials that we had taken for granted all of our lives. Rationing was in force nationally for many products which we needed every day such as gasoline, kerosene, tires, shoes, sugar. There were no scholarships available for graduates but the government would finance the education to anyone desiring to pursue nursing as a career because of the shortage of nurses in our country. Several boys were drafted immediately when they became 18 years of age and were taken out of high school before finishing the senior year.

Athletic activities competing with other schools were curtailed because gas and tires were rationed making it imperative to use gasoline with great caution. When I entered high school as

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Chris Haugsness, Auburn; Darrel Harkins, Lincoln, Neb.; Beverly Andrews, Eugene, Ore.; Gale Walz, St. Francis; Steve Daniels, North Attleboro, Ma.; Rae White, Haigler, Neb.; Joan Knodel, St. Francis; Al Bandel, Burlington, Colo.; Steve Burr, Manhattan; Becky and Kent Allard, St. Francis; Megan Brown, Salina;

Letter to the Editor

a freshman, the first two weeks were canceled because of a case of polio. Two people in the community died of the disease during that particular epidemic. The Salk vaccine was not yet available. No one knew the cause of the disease or how to treat it but it was evident that it was contagious. So large gatherings of people were prohibited. The disease frequently resulted in paralysis if the patient did survive.

Since I had no financing for college, I applied immediately for a job as a clerk in the Office of Price administration which was in charge of the rationing of products. The office was on the third floor of the county courthouse with a salary of \$80 per month. From these earnings, I planned to save enough money to go to college because my desire was to be a missionary to China. My heart was saddened when I saw my classmates leave for college in the fall because my yearning for more education was all consuming.

This was my first experience in working with the public. These were people whom I had known all of my life who had to come into this office to apply for these rationed products. Men in the community served on the committee to decide which applications would be given to allotted amount for the month. The office could not exceed whatever quota was given the county. Tires and gasoline were especially sought after. The county was responsible for

these shortages. Relationships between friends and neighbors were challenged when a neighbor was given a tire which the other person thought that he deserved. The names of the men who served on the tire committee were kept secret because people would harass them if they knew who they were. We met in the courthouse after dark without turning any lights on and met only in a room where the light would not show from the street. People were watching to see if they could see who was on the committee.

The draft committee was the most hated group because each month the county had to provide a certain number of men to fill the requirement designated for the county. These people had to decide whose son or husband or father would be chosen to go into the service. There were situations that would allow a candidate to be deferred or not accepted such as health, responsibilities or being a conscientious objector. Many men enlisted.

Every day, news would be on the street of one of our home town boys being injured or killed so tensions were great. I remember thinking that when the war ended we would all be sublimely happy for the rest of our days. No one would complain again about anything if we could get our boys back home and live peacefully. Have we forgotten?

Bonnie Cram
St. Francis

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

'Tis the season for graduation ceremonies!

Last weekend was a little nuts as we jumped down to Wichita for one and made a quick trip home for our local happening. Despite the hectic pace the most prevalent emotion for me those days was one of immense pride.

One of our middle sons, Trevor, finished his studies to become an A & P certified airplane technician. It was not an easy process for him to move over 300 miles from home and find the discipline necessary to complete his requirements. Did I mention how proud I am?

The keynote speaker for his commencement was Tim Norton, Sedgwick County Commissioner. I was impressed with the words Mr. Norton used in his speech.

"Tenacity," "grit" and "perseverance" were his descriptives for what Trevor and his fellow students had used to get to this point in their lives.

Those are certainly powerful words to describe what every student needs to graduate. I am sure my feeling of pride is shared with

every parent who is blessed with a graduate this season.

Congratulations to each and every one.

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

<p>Church of Christ 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 11 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Roger Meitl Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. Weekday Mass 8:30 a.m. Confessions Sat. 4-4:30</p>	<p>First Baptist Church 2nd & Scott • 332-3921 J.W. Glidewell, Pastor 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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Sunday School 10 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Jerry Nowack Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC 202 N. College Pastor Glenn Isernhagen, Interim 332-2928 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday of the month</p>
<p>First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Church Service 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis Equity</p>	<p>St. Francis Herald</p>

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(785) 332-3162 Fax - (785) 332-3001
E-mail - sf.herald@nwkansan.com

STAFF
Karen Krien Editor/Publisher
Betty Winston Sports Editor
Anita Schmid Advertising Manager
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