The Gardener

By Kay Melia

vkmelia@yahoo.com Every September, along about autumnal equinox time, about the time the garden has decided to give up for the season, I make a serious effort to do a little reviewing of what actually happened out there the last few months. For years, I've written down some "do's and don'ts" so that I will have some idea of what to do next season. And I think it's important that I make these notes at about the same time each year. If I don't make an effort to account for the past season, I will surely forget about what happened when things

get rolling next spring.

about my failures as well as some things that seemed to go well out in the backyard this summer. My most notable failure this year was green beans. So how, you might ask, could you possibly have a green bean failure? I'm not real sure myself, although a light hailstorm that came through about the time they were emerging might have been the culprit. They just never seemed to recover. My onions weren't very good

So, I write down some things

either. That same small hailstorm seemed to damage the onions more than the rest of the crops, breaking off many of the brittle leaves that were flourishing at the time. The problem seemed to come later when nearly half of the mature bulbs I pulled at harvest time showed signs of rot from the top to the bottom of the bulb. My garden had a couple of - inch rains on it, so perhaps

overwatering may have been too much for them, but I still don't think you can water onions too much.

So, here are my top five successes

in this year's garden. 1) Potatoes! Best crop I've ever had in my garden, and I give full credit to the leaf mulch I applied very deeply when the plants were only 6- or 8-inches tall. I also found a new variety this year, a white one named Dakota Crisp.

2) Peppers. I planted 20 pepper plants last spring all of which I had started myself, and mulched them heavily when I set them out. I set out 5 each of Mucho Nacho jalapenos, Biggie Chili Anaheims, Flavorburst sweet bells, and the new little Cajun Bell. All produced wonderfully, and

3) Cantaloupe. Good production from both the Ambrosia, and the big Early Hybrid Crenshaw, the latter from Burpee.

4) Cabbage. A great crop of Megaton, enough for two small crocks filled with enough cabbage for lots of sauerkraut.

5) Beets. After two straight years of failure, a bountiful crop of nice Red Ace variety, more than enough for canning and for some of that special Red Relish.

Those were my best this year, due mainly to great gobs of mulch, the most productive varieties, and timely rainfall. Overall, I felt the garden was about average when compared to years past, and I'm still picking tomatoes and peppers and still digging beets and carrots. Frost is surely just around the corner!

Church celebrates 100 years

St. John Lutheran Church, Bird City, will celebrate its 100th anniversary as a congregation on Sunday, Oct. 9. People are urged to come celebrate with the congregation with an open house from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct 8, at the church with refreshments, viewing history and fellowship time. Sunday morning, an anniversary worship will begin at 10:45 a.m. A noon meal will follow worship. Time will be spent visiting, listening to the stories and memories members.

Idalia holds meetings

"Citizens for Idalia School" is an organization of the Idalia community working to support passage of Proposition 3D in the November election.

The proposition proposes a local mill levy increase to provide funding, inconjunction with the BEST school grant program, to renovate Idalia School. "Citizens for Idalia School" met Wednesday in

For more information call Nancy Helling at 354-7330.



KYLA BANDEL, St. Francis high school student, travels with the Colby Golf team and recently competed at Garden City.

Sainty student golfs with Colby team

Kyla Bandel, St. Francis received eighth. freshman, is golfing with the She went to Garden city on Thursday, Sept. 22 where she golfed a 47 on nine holes.

She tied for sixth, seventh and eighth place and, on tie breakers,

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"Neighbors Helpting

There were at lease eight

Colby Eagle ladies golf team. other schools there with around 40 golfers participating. The Colby team placed third

overall. Syracuse won the tournament.



Post, Gene Dodd and Gary Leach. children called Marion and Betty 'Grandpa and Grandma." They He was buried in the St. Francis include the families of Gail Griffin, Cemetery. Vap Construction, Inc.

Obituary

Marion Benhart Miller Oct. 19, 1920 - Sept. 24, 2011

Marion Benhart Miller was born Butch Post, Gene Dodd, Jeff Rogers,

His most traumatic childhood designing birdhouses and feeders,

People come into your life for a

season and reason and sometimes

they move on, but they always

Then there was the morning the

doorbell rang before 8 and a smiling

gentleman introduced himself as

Ken Goff. He said Gwen had told

him to look them up when he got

to town to start a new job. They

offered him a place to stay until he

found something and he lived with

them for six months until his wife

When Marion retired, he built

a shop and spent many hours

teams of horses, wheelbarrows,

trains, objects for tole painting and

picture frames. He enjoyed restoring

old furniture that Betty had took one

look at and said it belonged in the

Marion was always helping

others. As a young man, he was a

member of the walking blood bank.

He was often called in from work to

He loved to do yard work and for

several years he did all the yard work

on the south side of the 300 block of

E. Jackson for the elderly who lived

Betty of 67 years, daughters Judi

and Gwen; brother Willard and wife

Ila; sister Berneice and husband Jim;

sister-in-law Marian Miller; sister-

in-law Mary Dorsch and husband

He was preceded in death by his

parents; brothers Dale, Eugene and

Kenneth and sisters Viva, Louise

remembered by his family and

friends as "Chief" and the "old man

the United Methodist Church in St.

Francis on Sept. 27 with Reverend

Warren Cico officiated the service.

Honorary pallbearers were Dale

Leydig, Blanche Goff, Merilee

Leach, Bill Wilger, Lois Post, Kim

Zweygardt, Annalynn Dietzel, Dale

Ken Goff, Kary Zweygardt, Butch

Casket bearers were Troy Gardner,

Hill and Marvin and Anita Miller.

Funeral services were held at

be affectionately

Norman; sister-in-law Eula Ham.

Marion is survived by his wife

there and needed help.

and Verneal.

will

who sat on his front porch."

donate blood to someone in need.

dump. He made it beautiful again.

Blanche could move here.

remain in your heart.

on Oct. 19, 1920, to John S. and Jeff Raile, Ed Waggoner and Troy

Sophia Lampe Miller at the family

farm on Cherry Creek in Cheyenne

County, Kan. He died on Sept. 24,

2011, in St. Francis, Kan. He was

confirmed in and a member of the

Salem Evangelical Church. He

attended school at the Smith School

He and his brothers devised a

good way to get out of school. They

trapped skunks and coyotes and sold

the pelts for spending money. They

would check their traps on the way

to school and frequently they were

so odiferous the teacher would send

them home. Marion enjoyed both

experience was the flood of 1935

when their home was completely

The Salem Church merged with

the Evangelical United Brethren

Church which later became the

United Methodist Church. He was

very active in the E.U.B. church,

serving for years as an usher,

superintendent of the Sunday School

Department and he and Betty were

Harrison were married in the

Methodist Church in St. Francis.

They farmed in the South Fork

community. While living there, their

daughters Judith Ann and Gwen

Marion loved animals and trained

several saddle horses to do tricks.

His favorite, Babe, would follow

him around like a puppy. Later he

trained a squirrel, Freddy, to eat corn

In April of 1954, Marion began

work with the Cheyenne County

Highway Department and the

family moved to St. Francis. He

had many interesting experiences

during this time including rescuing

people stranded in blizzards. One

of the highlights of his career was

a trip to Peoria, Ill., and a tour of

the Caterpillar manufacturing plant

there. He was foreman when he

Through the years, Marion and

Betty opened their doors to many

young couples who came to work in

St. Francis. These families became

part of the Miller Family and the

On June 4, 1944, he and Betty

hunting and fishing.

surrounded by water.

youth sponsors.

Ellen were born.

out of his hand.

retired in 1983.

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Thank You, Thank You!

Thank you to our family and friends that have said prayers,

us. God bless all of you. Dave and Dawn Fry

sent cards, brought in food and have given us words of encouragement during Dave's recent cancer. Thank you to Bruce for keeping our yard mowed and to Jolene, for watering the flowers and yard. Thank you to Dr. Miller for doing the testing that found the cancer. Thank you to Pastor Randy Nelson for his calls to Kansas City, before and after the surgery, and again when we got home. Thank you to Dr. David Duchene, at KU Medical Center for a successful surgery. The doctors feel that Dave will have a full recovery. Thank you also to Leach Insurance LLC., and Cheyenne Road and Bridge for understanding our need to be away from our jobs. We needed each and everyone of you, and you were there for

Good Bye Summer ... Hello Fall!!! ... and it's "that" time again! CITY-WIDE CLEANUP St. Francis Citizens

Call the Power Plant 332-3031 between 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Do not leave cleanup requests on the answering machine, they will not be picked up, talk to the dispatcher. Requests can be called in Monday thru Friday. **DEADLINE OCTOBER 14.**

Calls received after the deadline will have to wait until next fall. Your cooperation and patience will be appreciated.

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