

Memorial Day service for Kidders

Kidder Family of Cheyenne County, Kansas Memorial Day, May 28

History of the Kidder family in Cheyenne County begins with George Edson Kidder, who was born Oct. 23, 1875 at Rockford, Ill. He had two brothers: Earl and Jay, who both later made their homes in Seattle, Wash., and a sister Lena, who married a Roberts and lived at Loveland, Colo.

Kidders came to this county very early. The surname Kidder, as well as the names George, Edson, Monroe, and Benjamin were prominent in the indexes of soldiers who fought in the American Revolution. They also greatly distinguished themselves as Civil War soldiers.

In 1886, Cheyenne County's George Edson Kidder, at the age of 11 years, arrived in Holyoke, Colo. with his parents Benjamin F and Miranda Hewitt Kidder, to homestead. In 1891, they moved to Greeley, Colo. Where he was united in marriage to Ina Query (July 24, 1879 - Jan. 12, 1965), a daughter of Spencer and Amy Stewart Query (Sept. 25, 1895).

George Edson followed the profession of a farmer / stockman, moving from Greeley, Colo. to near Osceola, Neb. In 1900. In the fall of 1911, he was converted in a meeting conducted by Rev. Albert Jacobs. Undergoing water baptism at that time, he became a life-long member of Greens Chapel Methodist Church at Osceola.

Moving to rural Bird City in March 1922/23, the Kidders purchased land (1928 Atlas, NE 145 and N 1/2 4-5-38), continued to farm and raised purebred Duroc hogs.

In 1943, part of their Cheyenne County land was sold and George Edson and Ina purchased a home in Loveland, Colo., where they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Sept. 25, 1945.

George Edson Kidder died at his Loveland home on a Sunday morning (March 30, 1947, 9:05 a.m.). Funeral services were held at the Kibbey Funeral Home in Loveland, on Wednesday afternoon (April 2, 1947) at 2 p.m. Then, on Friday afternoon (April 4, 1947) at 2 p.m. funeral services were held in the Bird City Methodist Church with Rev. Harold Allen officiating and Rev. Floyd Griffin, of Syracuse, assisting. Interment was made in the family plot at Bird City Cemetery.

Their children were: Edson Monroe Kidder (May 7, 1896, Greeley - Jan. 11, 1979) of Coquille, Ore. and later Bird

City; Edna (Mrs. J.S) Malm, of Loveland; Hazel (Mrs. Joseph G.) Tully of Sterling, Colo., later Mrs. Morrison of Portland, Ore.; Ethel "Linnie" (Mrs. Clinton R.) Moffet, of rural Bird City, now deceased; Margaret Hedding, later Mrs. Landers, of Portland and Eugene, Ore.; Leland "Lee" Benjamin (May 2, 1902 - March 15, 1941) of rural Bird City, who married Virginia M. Colebank (Sept. 20, 1926). Lee lost his life in a tractor mishap on the Kidder farm and is buried at Bird City Cemetery.

Edson Monroe Kidder (May 7, 1896, Greeley - Jan. 11, 1979) son of George Edson and Ina, married first, in 1917, to Gertrude M. Blevins, possibly at Osceola, Neb. After living at Coquille, Ore., he was in Cheyenne County by January 1933, when he took a second wife, Mrs. Edna Helen Turley Schild / Schield (May 25, 1899 - March 12, 1962) a daughter of William H. and Jane LeBow Turley and widow of Isaac Eusebius Schild (1885 - 1930). Edna gave Edson Monroe a son, George Edson Kidder (II), born at Bird City on July 28, 1934. They parted nine years later and were divorced (1945).

Edson Monroe sold his farm (1950/52) and moved to Loveland. He went into business for himself and married a third time, to Lena Logan, of Loveland. They moved to New Mexico, but he returned to Bird City in 1977 and died at the Cheyenne County Hospital on Jan. 11, 1979 and is buried at Bird City Cemetery. Lena is buried at Loveland.

George Edson Kidder (II) (July 28, 1934, Bird City) son of Edson Monroe and Edna, was born on the farm southeast of Bird City and grew up in the Bird City and St. Francis area.

He married first to Shirley Simons, who gave him a son Michael and a daughter Connie. It was during the time of this marriage that George Edson (II) was in the Army (January 1952 - January 1957) in Korea.

In November of 1958, he was united in marriage to Mrs. Dorothy Versch Godfrey, a native of Atwood, and became the father of Jay, Roger and Connie Colleen - all of whom he adopted and raised as his own. His children by Dorothy are Tammy Kidder Lee Milne, and George Edson Kidder (III).

The family made their home in Denver until they were transferred to Anchorage, Alaska, where George Edson (II) worked as a radio technician all over the state. He received a medical retirement while in Alaska and the family moved to Wheeler in 1973.



MARSHA MAGLEY reads from her compiled history of the Kidder family at the Cheyenne Valley Cemetery on Memorial Day.

Herald photo courtesy Marsha Magley

George Edson (II) was a member of Goodland VFW Post; St. Francis Masonic Lodge, #404, and Isis Shrine of Salina.

He and Dorothy celebrated their silver wedding anniversary in November 1983 with a large open house hosted by their children. They had three grandsons and two granddaughters.

At the time of his death (August 14, 1984) George Edson (II) had been in and out of hospitals for 10 months, a victim of cancer. He was survived by his wife, Dorothy, three sons, their wives and children: Jay and Roger, both now living in Arkansas, George

III, now of Fort Collins, Colo.; and daughter Tammy now of Greeley, Colo.; a brother Marvin Isaac Schield, St. Francis, now deceased; and a sister, Melba Schield Cury, of Goodland.

Daughter Connie Colleen (1955-1971) lost her life in a car wreck south of Atwood. The family, visiting from Alaska at the time, buried her at Anchorage, but a memorial stone in her honor rests at the grave and tombstone of George Edson Kidder (II) at Cheyenne Valley Cemetery, Wheeler.

Child advocates request funding

Vicki Hubin representing the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Centers, talked to the county commissioners at their Thursday, May 31, meeting.

She reported that, in 2011, the advocacy had served nine children in Cheyenne County. In the 29 western Kansas counties which the advocacy serves, they had interviews with 245 children.

People, Ms. Hubin said, don't think it happens in their county - in their backyard but it does. These children are physically and sexually abused.

The advocacy has two mobile units set up to help children. Of the children interviewed, 85 percent of the cases were for sexual abuse; 5 percent for physical abuse; 2 percent for emotional abuse; and 8 percent

were interviewed as a witness to a crime. Of those interviewed, 59 percent were female and 41 percent were male.

The advocacy supports the child and family from the beginning of the child's disclosure through the investigation and judicial phases and through recovery. The mobile units, which are provided to the communities, offer wellness exams, medical assessments, as well as collection and documentation of forensic evidence. It also offers mental health services.

Cheyenne County gave \$500 to the Advocacy Center last year and will look at the amount again when they prepare the budget in July.

Colby flea market set for Saturday morning

"Agora," a flea market named for the the place where early-day Greek merchants displayed their goods in outdoor shops and booths, will fill the parking lot of the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave., from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Homemade crafts and goods, ready-made items, foods and the like will be for sale at more than 50 booths outside. Inside the church, shoppers may browse through a giant rummage sale, choose some of their favorite goodies at a bake sale or just sit and enjoy a morning plate of biscuits, sausage and gravy.

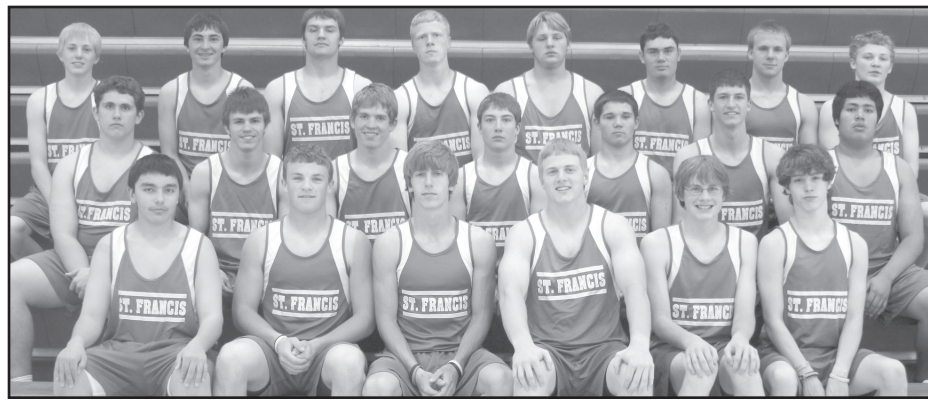
With merchants coming from Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska,

organizers believe Agora will be among the largest art and craft shows in western Kansas. All proceeds from indoor sales will be used by the church for local and mission projects.

Anyone who has rummage-sale items may bring them to the church before Friday. Organizers ask that items be prepriced and request no large electronic items.

Agora has 14 vendors committed for next year. Anyone who wants to participate in this year's market or next should call (785) 462-9050, (785) 443-0657 or (785) 443-3025 or e-mail agora_cumc@hotmail.com for an application.

Congratulations Indians on a Great Season!



Boys Track; (front row) Jon Hoard, Cade Bracelin, Isaac Schiltz, Paul Nelson, Erik Nelson, Matt Howell (Middle row) Scott Warren, Logan Lampe, Derek Queen, Lane Hoffman, Wyatt Landenberger, Mason Schiltz, Lenny Olivaras (back row) Casey Keller, Tyler Raby, Zach Gienger, Steven Nelson, Gus Jardine, Keegan Sherlock, Thomas Douthit, Michael Leibbrandt.

Photos by Caitlin Northrup



Girls Track; (front row) Julianan Wendling, Laura Brunk, Christina Schoenrogge, Aubrey Mills (middle row) Aly Schlepp, Kyla Bandel, Mariah Beikman, Valerie Wurm, Shelby Cassaw, Ashlee Orth (back row) MaKayla Taylor, Justice Wiley, Abigail Fernandez, Echo Jones



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