

# Treasures from the attic program theme for Kansas Day in Bird City

The 84th Kansas Day in Bird City will be held on Tuesday at the Legion hall with registration starting at 10 a.m. A potluck dinner will be held at 12:30 p.m. with Phil Crawford entertaining while people eat. The program will follow at 1:30 p.m.

This year's Kansas Day theme is "Treasures From the Attic." Displays will feature the items people have found in their attics and want to share with those attending.

Presenting the program will be Erika Nelson, a speaker with the Kansas Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, presenting topics on Outsider Art and Roadside Attractions. She is also a part of the Kansas Arts Commission's Arts on Tour Roster.

Ms. Nelson spent 8 years as an independent artist and educator. While living in a vehicle for two years, she explored the nooks and crannies of the United States seeking out the odd and unusual, gathering stories of people who built Outsider Art Environments, as well as Roadside Vernacular Architecture, known as "Worlds Largest Things." She developed her own traveling roadside attraction and museum featuring "The Worlds Largest Collection of the Worlds Smallest Version of the Worlds Largest Things."

At Kansas Day, Ms. Nelson will be talking about postcards, especially the "Tall-Tale" postcards, which she has found in attics and through her travels.

William H. "Dad" Martin and Frank D. "Pop" Conard were pioneers of the postcard printing business who found inspiration in the trials and tribulations of

Kansas culture. From the early 1900s through 1940, their carefully crafted images pushed the medium of photography, promoting Kansas as a land where ears of corn grew so large that farmers used logging saws to slice them and monster grasshoppers could stop a train in its tracks.

These two pioneers of the printing business took the trials and tribulations of Kansas culture as their inspiration, creating elaborate 'trick' or 'exaggerated' photo postcards. Working from the early 1900s through the 1940s, their carefully crafted images pushed the medium of photography, expounding on the fertility of a Kansas that could grow ears of corn so huge that farmers used a logging saw to slice it, and where six men were required to load the crop of boulder-sized cabbages to take to market. We'll look at the industries and events depicted, the inspirations behind the work, and the techniques pioneered by both masters in creating a new facet of the Picture Postcard industry.

"By 1908 Martin was experimenting with 'trick photography' postcards, selling the results throughout the nation. These cards with their visually powerful images were so successful that he sold the (Ottawa, Kan.) photography studio in 1909 to turn full attention to the Martin Post Card Company, which an article in The Evening Herald of May 24, 1909, announced 'turns out 10,000 cards daily.'" (Larger Than Life: The American Tall-Tale Postcard)

"F.D. Conard, the owner of a radio station in Garden City, was drawn into the postcard



Erika Nelson

business in 1935 by a plague of grasshoppers. In his words, "...all I could think about was grasshoppers. By morning I had the idea of having some fun with the grasshoppers... I didn't do it for adverse impressions of Kansas, but as an exaggerated joke... They sold like hot cakes." (Big Time: American Tall-Tale Postcards)

The St. Francis third graders and the Cheylin fourth graders will present entertainment.

Mrs. Magley will introduce the eldest Kansas born man and woman, eldest Cheyenne County born man and woman, eldest foreign-born man and woman, eldest man and woman and the youngest boy and girl present at the program. There will be a business session and the election of officers.

Pastor Tom Bailey will give the memorial tribute and benediction.

The Kansas Day Committee members serving this year are: Marilyn Magley, president; Wanda Dowdy, vice president; Rosemary Powell, secretary; Marsha Magley, treasurer; and Helene Landenberger, past president.



JOE CALDART AND JENNIFER ARCHULETA discuss paperwork to organize the Walk, Run and Rock fund raiser.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Fund raiser planned in April

By Karen Krien

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On April 27, there will be a large benefit event to raise money for Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD). The main person in charge of organizing the event is St. Francis resident, Joe Caldart, who has Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy.

Joe and Jennifer Archuleta, who also has the disorder, met to talk about the disease which is becoming more and more evident. It strikes children, teens and adults and leaves them with continual pain.

It is a chronic neurological syndrome where the person suffers severe burning pain, pathological changes in bone and skin, excessive sweating, tissue swelling and extreme sensitivity to touch.

Both Joe and Jennifer were diagnosed with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy after accidents. Joe was hit by a billy goat 15 years ago and Jennifer was in a car accident 10 years ago.

They both also said they suffered before they were diagnosed with the disorder. Their legs were affected first however, there is no one place where a person with disorder is affected. One of the tests was taking the temperature of one leg and comparing it to the other. There was a higher temperature in the one leg. Joe told about the hair on his leg growing almost as he watched, another symptom.

Besides being in pain, Jennifer's leg is constantly twitching so she uses a cane to keep from falling when her leg gives out.

They have trouble sleeping as they can never get comfortable

because of the pain. Both have used different medicine but they work only a short time and then they have to go to another med.'

I try to stay away from medicines, especially those with narcotics, Joe said. Jennifer said she is allergic to a lot of the medicines but has had a spinal stem simulator implanted. That, she said, worked for only a short while.

Stress is one of the greatest threats to someone with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy and can trigger a bout with severe pain. While some patients with the disorder will have the pain basically in the same place, it is nothing unusual to find the pain jumping from place to place in the body.

Joe and Jennifer had been at Cuppa Joes coffee shop several times. One day, Joe was limping and Jennifer asked him if he wasn't feeling well. She was surprised when he said he had RSD and was having a bad day. Joe said he was surprised that she knew and understood what RSD was.

Jennifer is just as excited as

Joe is in bringing the fundraiser to Cheyenne County. This is the first RSD benefit to be held in Kansas, Joe said.

More about the benefit

The Walk, Run and Rock for a Cure benefit will include a 8.9 run/walk from Wheeler to the fairgrounds in St. Francis on April 27. There will also be musical groups performing and people speaking about the disease. There will be many vendors including those selling food as well as other items.

A number of business have agreed to help sponsor prizes and other items.

People are coming from all over the United States, Joe said. When I heard about the children who have been diagnosed with disease, I realized how important it is to make people and physicians more aware of RSD so these little kids will be understood when they complain of the pain.

Watch for more information about the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy disorder in future issues of The Herald and Times as well as posters in businesses.

## Search for hidden treasures

Don't deny it now.

We all have them - those treasures from the attic that are bound to us by our heart strings. The items may not have been seen for many years, yet we know they are not far.

Most are not expensive pieces of art. Many are yellowed with the passage of time. Some have broken stitches from use before their retirement.

One realizes, said Marsha Magley, one of the coordinators of the 2013 Kansas Day celebration in Bird City, after well into adulthood, that most of everything we have accumulated during our adult years pales in comparison to the treasures from the attic.

For instance, she said, old letters which passed between family members, 70 to 80 years ago, and antique documents are special, just because of the penmanship. Some of it shows education and wisdom. Some of it reflects a backwoods existence, with signatures often signed by an "X."

Consider the old family journal from Missouri dated 1825, or the Homestead Patent dated 1886, Cheyenne County, Kan. Also, there are the iron pots and a tea kettle, Mrs. Magley said, my paternal grandmother cooked in at the homestead when the family lived in the loft of their new concrete barn, 1909-1916. The branding iron they valued

so highly, came down in lineal descent to us.

"We, who are privileged to be stewards of nostalgic memories and objects, are rich," she said.

"There is a box containing old brittle hand-sewn quilt blocks made by a maternal great-grandmother as Civil War battles raged near her home in southwest Missouri. They are precious to us.

"My imagination ignites and I can feel a little of the sadness she must have felt in losing her own father and two brothers to the southern cause while other relatives were fighting and dying for the north."

It turns out, Mrs. Magley said, that the old photo of that debonair ship's captain is a gret-great-grandfather on Lake Erie. The old oval picture frame is holding the likeness of our paternal great-grandparents.

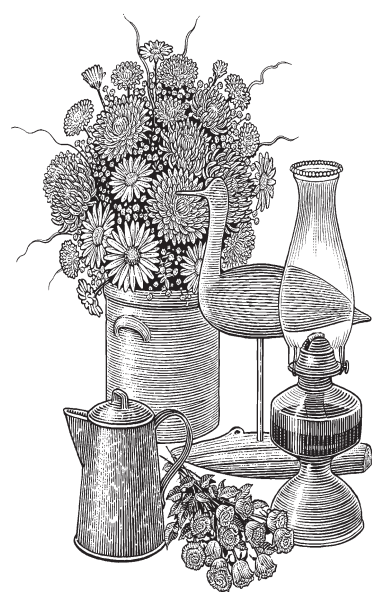
These items are not worth much - probably nothing at an auction, she said. They are not of value to anyone but my family and myself.

Mind you, she said, we could live without them, but it is much nicer knowing they are near at hand, to help remind us of who we are and where we came from..

Among the treasures in her attic, Mrs. Magley said, there are World War II rationing books, old money orders and checks from a long defunct church.

"I can take old gasoline credit card receipts and probably trace every vacation our family ever took when my sister, brother and I were growing up," she said.

It is impossible to bring very many of our treasures from the attic to the 84th annual Kansas Day in Bird City on Jan. 29. But it is possible to get there with a few. I am planning to and I hope many of you will too. Help us celebrate the 152nd anniversary of Kansas statehood in style.



## Cubs Den Daycare

The Idalia Cubs Den Daycare facility has open lead teacher positions. For questions or to request an application please give Karen a call at the number below or email us!

970-354-7587

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The St. Francis New Generation Fund and Community Foundation is soliciting applications for a \$2,000 grant for projects which are for the betterment of St. Francis. Multiple recipients may split the \$2,000.

To learn more and download a grant application, please visit <http://sfcommunityfoundation.org>, or pick up an application at the St. Francis City Office. The deadline for the applications is March 1, 2013, and the mailing address is SFNGF&CF, PO Box 967, St. Francis, KS, 67756.

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