

Obituaries

Gladys Neilan

Jan. 9, 1911 - May 9, 2013

The year 1911 probably won't conjure up many memories. However, several famous people were born in 1911. Ginger Rogers, Lucille Ball, George Liberace, Roy Rogers - and, in Thayer County, Neb., John and Mary Morehouse had a baby girl. Born on Jan 9, they named her Gladys Ruth. It was a candle that burned bright for the next 102 years. It's last flicker was on May 9, 2013.

In 1920, the Morehouse family returned to Kansas where the parents had originally homesteaded in 1901. It was there, in the South Fork community that Gladys grew up. After completing the lower grades at White Lilly and Green Valley schools, she attended St. Francis High School. As was common in those days, she earned her board and room by caring for the children of local families - in her case, the Cram and Peck families.

Gladys graduated from St. Francis High School in 1928. That summer, she went to Hays and obtained her teaching certificate. That fall, at the age of 17, she began teaching country school. In November that year, while boarding at the Roy Edmunds farm home, she met a young man who had come from South Dakota with two of his brothers to shuck corn. The meeting at the dinner table that night was the beginning of a long journey together with her future husband.

On Christmas Day, 1933, Gladys became Mrs. Joe Neilan. They celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary in 1999 when both were residents of the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis.

Gladys and Joe began their long ride together during the days of dust and depression. They rented a farm northwest of Bird City and in 1934, harvested their first corn crop...a few ears of corn in a gunny sack. Gladys had continued to teach school prior to her marriage and had even been able to loan her father \$200, which represented six

months teacher's salary. On Halloween night in 1935, the dining room table became a delivery room and son, Gary, arrived early the next morning delivered by Dr. T.J. Walz.

In 1937, Gladys and Joe purchased the Dass Murren farm north of St. Francis. The one-half section sold for \$3,200. The following year, they purchased an adjoining quarter of wheat land for \$1,600. In 1938, the Neilans became members of the First Christian Church in St. Francis.

Between drought and hail storms, crop failures were common. But like many neighbors, they persevered by finding other sources of income. Gladys went back to teaching school in 1940. They raised pigs and chickens, milked cows and sold cream. Gladys dressed chickens and sold to people in town for their freezers, sometimes dressing as many as 20 chickens a day.

It can be noted that Gladys was born on a farm, grew up on a farm, married a farmer and spent her first 84 years on a farm. She was thoroughly immersed in her role as a farmer's wife... in helping deliver baby calves, driving a tractor, fixing fence, managing the farm business and financial activities, cooking for harvesters and helping keep abreast of government programs and regulations.

She was content with what many might consider a boring life...but it was the way she wanted it. She never knew what it was to take a vacation. She never used a credit card or cell phone or flew on an airplane. She didn't know the convenience of having electricity for the first 40 years of her life, or indoor plumbing for almost 50 years.

She relished in the peace and solitude of life in the country. Her competence and determination often masked her shyness. Her desire was quality over quantity... in her circle of friends, her

interests, her possessions. She was a perfectionist, whether preparing a meal, sewing a dress, writing poetry, making curtains or making Christmas decorations.

Above all, she was a teacher. Gladys had a unique ability to relate to young people, to inspire, motivate and bring out the best of individual talents. This was evident at the time she and Joe celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and a number of former students wrote letters praising her as the best teacher they ever had...some 60 years after she had taught them.

Her skills were also evident as a 4-H club leader. She and her husband, Joe, became leaders of the Plum Creek 4-H Club in 1947. It had been 25 years since Cheyenne County had a state 4-H champion. In the following 10 years, the Plum Creek Club had 11 state champions and six national winners. It became the most honored and recognized 4-H club in the state. In 1954, the Skelly Oil Company honored the Neilans with their National Farm Family award.

Gladys suffered a stroke in 1995 and was a resident of the St. Francis Good Samaritan nursing home for 15 years. Following the 2010 fire, she lived at the Wallace County Community Care Center.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe, in 2000; her brother, Dr. Albert Morehouse; sisters, Blanche McDowell, Bernice Hamilton Baker, Delores Klotz and Helen Howk. Also her foster sister, Winona Neilan.

Gladys is survived by her son, Gary (Wilma) Neilan; grandsons, Scott (Melody) Neilan, G Jay (Mary) Neilan; granddaughters, Nancy (Dennis) Schafer and Terri (Tom) Pennoni. She also leaves six great-grandchildren.

A memorial service is planned for 3 p.m. On Saturday, June 29, at the First Christian Church in St. Francis.

Milton Dale Murray

Jan. 4, 1933 - May 24, 2013

Milton Dale Murry, age 80, died May 24, 2013. He was born Jan. 4, 1933, in Bird City, Kan., to Ralph and Ruby Murray.

He attended school at South Star District 13 and Bird City for eight years and graduated from Goodland High School with the class of 1951.

He married Twila Kinderknecht on July 27, 1952, at the Catholic Rectory in Goodland. They lived on the family farm and he drove for Yellow Freight for 23 years,

retiring at age 65.

He was a member of Goodland AA and recently celebrated 38 years of sobriety and remained active on the local and state level. He was a lifetime member of Goodland Elks and he always enjoyed fishing and his motorcycle.

Milton was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

He is survived by his wife, Twila, of the home; and four sons, Ricky Dale (Karla), Rex Lynn (Sandi), Ronald Lee

(Gloria), all of Goodland, and Roger Allen (Wedny) of Garden City; 14 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and three on the way.

Funeral service was held Wednesday, May 29, at Bateman Funeral Home in Goodland with burial following in the Goodland Cemetery. Memorials will be a donation to a 12-step program and sent to Bateman Funeral Home, P.O. Box 278, Goodland, KS 67735.

Raymond Henry Armknecht

Nov. 10, 1923 - May 23, 2013

Raymond Henry Armknecht, 89, former St. Francis resident and retired Cheyenne County farmer, died on May 23, 2013, at his home in Goodland, Kan.

He was born on his grandfather's homestead near Hale, Colo., on Nov. 10, 1923, to Ethel LaVerne Whipple Armknecht and William Henry Armknecht. He attended school in Hale and St. Francis. Throughout his life, he farmed in Yuma and Kit Carson counties in Colorado, and Cheyenne County, Kan.

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Naval Air Corp as a nose gunner on a PBM. He was honorably discharged in 1945, and

returned to farming.

On Nov. 18, 1951, he married his sweetheart for life, Bonnie Henderson. To this union five children were born.

Preceding him in death were his parents, three brothers, Harold Armknecht, Howard Armknecht and Richard (Sox) Armknecht; and two sisters, Wilda Sue Cranmer and Wanda Trembley.

Survivors include his wife, Bonnie; sons, Henry Armknecht and wife, Debby of Osborne, Timothy Armknecht and wife, Shaunna of Goodland, James Armknecht and wife, Esther of Bogue; two daughters, Joy Taft and husband, Scott of Oro Valley,

Ariz., and Judy Kannady and husband, Omer, of Williamsburg, Ohio; 13 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the First Christian Church of St. Francis on Tuesday, May 28, with Pastor Allen Coon as officiant and singer. Casket bearers were his grandsons: Doug Armknecht, Scott Taft Jr., Charlie Moore, Chris Moore, Matthew Armknecht and Justin Armknecht. Interment followed at the St. Francis Cemetery with the Naval Honor Guard performing military graveside services.

Diana Sue Zimbelman

Jan. 5, 1948 - May 14, 2013

Diana Sue Zimbelman, eldest child of Raymond and Dorine (Raile) Zimbelman, was born on Jan. 5, 1948, in St. Francis, Kan. She died in Aurora, Colo., on May 14, 2013.

Diana grew up on the Zimbelman family farm, northwest of St. Francis. She attended grade school at the Northrup School, then attended St. Francis Community High School, graduating in 1966.

While in high school, like many kids, she stayed in town during the school week, staying with her aunt and uncle, Velma and AJ Zimbelman. Diana, a good student, continued her education at the University of Kansas, where she graduated with a nursing degree in 1970.

She then began her life-long career in the nursing profession, working in various locations and various

capacities within that profession. She worked and lived in Kansas City, Tucson, Ariz., Yuma, Colo., Sterling, Colo., St. Francis and Aurora. She purchased her home, and made her permanent residence in Aurora (now Centennial) in the late 1980s.

Diana, as evidenced by over 35 years of nursing, had a compassion and caring for her patients. Until her health failed in her last years, she always enjoyed coming home "to the farm" for special occasions such as birthdays or reunions, the Cheyenne County Fair, and especially Christmas gatherings. She enjoyed cooking for big family gatherings such as the Raile and Zimbelman family reunions.

Diana's "most special" joy and pride were her nieces and nephews. She treasured them, and held

them in high regard. They, in turn, considered her their "most special" Aunt Diana.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Dorine. She is survived by her father, Raymond of St. Francis; sister Robin Burr and husband Tim; brother Mark Zimbelman and wife Sue, all of St. Francis; sister Lori Weber and husband Ted, of Salina, Kan. She is also survived by her nieces and nephews: TJ and Sarah Burr, Riley, Tyce, and Treyson; Abby Burr; Dennon and Drew Flemming, Alecia Zimbelman; Ryan Weber, Brandon Weber, Christina Weber and Carter Weber.

Funeral services were held on May 18, at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis. Inurnment was in the St. Francis Cemetery, with Knodel Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Deceased veteran names read

A list of deceased veterans were read at the St. Francis Memorial Day services held at the cemetery. WWI: Harry Flynn, Everett Nelson, William Raile, Edward Reichert, Harry Steppenson, Jacob Sturm, Carl Wagner

WWII: Wayne Andrist, Lyle Brown, Wilfred Burnham, Dalton Coldy, William Douthit, Cecil Follett, Harold Henkel, Bernard Kimmel, Albert Knorr, Paul Lillich, Melvin McMullen, Athur

Moody, Edwin Ramsey, Charles Reinhold, Sherman Reynolds, Vernon Reynolds, Waverly Rice, Lyle Scoby, Lester White, Oscar Zwegygart

Korean War: Gordon Fishel, Patrick Garner, Richard Jones, Ray King

Vietnam: Michael Reinhold

Veterans last three years: Raymond Armknecht, Sparky Nolan, Robert Miller, Raymond Boll, John Schorzman, Melvin

Mast, Marion Miller, Melvin Berry, Ruben Schorzman, Charles Merklin, Albert Zimbelman, Jerry Weinstein, Harold Kamla, John Kamla, Howard Poulignot, Sammy Scheller, Billy Lampe, Ruben Schultz, Melvin Schlepp, Bill Leach, Clarence Cress, Ervin Schlepp, Leonard Schlepp, Bob Bader, Carl Williams, Robert Keller, Jack Maupin, Keith Dorsch, Steve Danielski, Gary Krien, Jack Rieb, Glen Duncan



LONESTAR STORAGE buildings are complete and people are moving their belongings into a unit. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

*Light the way
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Keep the fire of hope burning by purchasing a luminaria candle in memory of someone lost to cancer, in honor of someone still fighting, in special recognition of someone who has beaten this dreaded disease or to recognize a caregiver.

RELAY FOR LIFE OF CHEYENNE COUNTY
SATURDAY & SUNDAY - JUNE 8 & 9
7 p.m. - 7 a.m.
AT SAWHILL PARK IN ST. FRANCIS

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

The City of St Francis will receive bids for the historic renovation to the exterior of the Band shell located in the city park of St. Francis, Kansas. Bids will be received until 2:00 pm on the 18th day of June, 2013, in the Architect's office of Campbell & Johnson, Engineers PA at 113 West 7th St., Concordia, KS. Bids received after this date and hour will not be considered and will be returned unopened. Oral, telegraphic, facsimile nor telephonic proposals or modifications will NOT be received nor considered. Overnight delivery in this area is not dependable.

The project consists of the demolition of existing deteriorated concrete and concrete stucco; tuck pointing brick; some electrical work, steel window restoration, roof repair work, and reapplication of historic stucco. This project is funded in part by a Heritage Trust Fund grant administered by the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS). The project is located on property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. All work must comply with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Plans and specifications will be on file and may be examined in person at the following locations: Campbell & Johnson Engineers PA, 113 West 7th Street, Concordia, KS & City Hall, 209 Washington, St. Francis, KS.

Copies of the contract documents (specifications and plans) will be held for interested parties at the office of the Architect: CAMPBELL & JOHNSON ENGINEERS PA, 113 West 7th Street, Concordia, KS 66901 and made available after May 20, 2013 for a non-refundable fee of \$40.00. A bid bond for the amount of not less than 5% of the total amount of the bid made payable to the City of St. Francis will be required to be submitted with each bid. Bid Bonds will be released when a contract has been awarded or the project has been terminated prior to construction. No bidder may withdraw his bid for at least forty-five (45) days after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of the bids. Other bonds will also be required. No two party bonds will be accepted.

Should you find any discrepancies, omissions, ambiguities, or conflicts in or among the contract documents or be in doubt as to their meaning, bring questions to our attention no later than seven days prior to the date for receipt of bids. The Architect will review the question and where information sought is not clearly indicated or specified, he will issue an addendum that will become a part of the contract. Neither Owner nor the Architect will be responsible for any oral instructions.

As a condition precedent to the contract award, the Owner is not obligated to accept the lowest or any other bid. The bids will be awarded without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disabilities, or marital status. All contractors will be responsible for full compliance with all federal and state labor and construction laws and hold the Owner & Architect harmless.

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The Saint Francis Herald, P.O. Box 1050, Saint Francis, Ks. 67756

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Please join us for the luminaria ceremony at 9 p.m. or dark
\$10.00 per luminaria please!

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