

Opinion

Tragic accident shows an every day danger

The disaster in Lac-Megantic, Quebec, wiped out the historic downtown district, killing up to 50 people, some of whom have not yet been recovered. It happened when a 72-car train loaded with crude oil broke loose and ran downhill until it derailed on a curve in Lac-

The ensuing fire and explosions were horrific, but the incident is far from isolated. Similar trains of oil, alcohol, dry fertilizer and random hazardous materials criss-cross our area, and the entire continent, each week. Oil is being loaded here and moved through each county.

Other shipments involve one or a few cars of chemicals, or single trucks moving on the highways. Nearly every town is visited, usually without notice. Until something goes wrong.

In Canada, the head of the railroad first blamed fire fighters who had put out a small blaze in one of the train's engines earlier that night. Before they left, they shut the engine down. A few days after the accident, someone asked whether the train's hand brakes had been set.

The answer was uncertain. The engineer and conductor should have set hand brakes on the network can be.

The tragic rail accident, explosion and fire in engines and up to 11 cars, but no one could say Canada last week gives us a glimpse of just how if that had been done. If it was not, then after the much danger passes through our towns every engines were shut down, it was only a matter of time before the train's air brakes failed – and it rolled away.

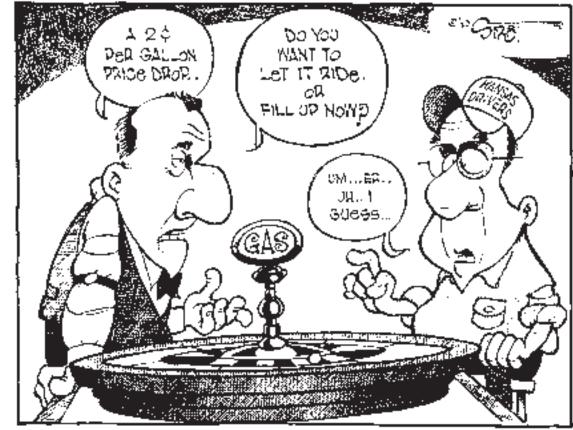
> It's against railroad rules to leave a train standing with air brakes only, because eventually through leakage, they "bleed off." When that happens, there's nothing to hold a train except hand brakes, set by cranking a wheel on each

> Perhaps the Quebec accident will lead to better regulations and better training for crews. Perhaps the governments in the U.S. and Canada, which share a single unified rail network, will only invent some meaningless new paperwork for crews to fill out.

> We hope for the former. There is too much hazardous material running up and down our roads and railroads to be comfortable with slipshod safety procedures.

> If you don't believe that, go down to the nearest rail yard or highway intersection and count the number of "diamond"-shaped placards that mark hazardous loads. Be sure to write down the numbers; you can look them up on the Internet.

> You'll see how lethal our transportation - Steve Haynes



Casey's Comments

As if more evidence was needed to show we live in a nutty T-shirts with the dictator's world...there is a mystifying face progressed to SS type trend out of the Asian country of

having their pictures taken as teddy bears posed in the Nazi they pose beside cartoon effigies of Adolph Hitler.

In what is being termed "Hitler Chic," the youth of the country that was mostly untouched finding humor in the man who was responsible for the deaths of 12 million Holocaust victims.

bike helmets. Also temporary swastika tattoos could be In Bangkok young people are purchased along with photos of salute. His caricature has also more and more of a Global been combined with American restaurant icons like Ronald McDonald and Colonel Sanders.

The cause for this lack of by the Second World War are understanding is being blamed on the Thai educational system such a crazy world. which apparently does not cover W.W.II in history classes. In fact

mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com most teachers are oblivious to

Casey

McCormick

the terror caused by that war. Like it or not, we are becoming

society. The importance of history, if for nothing else, can provide an awareness of man's cruelty to each other. But then we might not have

The Gardener

watermelon in their gardens these days. Most gardeners will tell you that their garden is too small to handle those rambling vines.

Watermelons have been a very notable part of my gardening life. But not lately. I have the space but lack the interest. But when I was a second grader back in the depression year of 1937, watermelons were big...literally.

My family installed an irrigation system on the south bank of the Arkansas River just north of Bucklin in southwest Kansas where they owned a small plot of river bottom land. They did that to assure that they would raise a feed crop for the cattle to eat in the winter, and during the 30's, there was very little rain and no feed crop to speak of. But the water poured out of the Sorgo, a rather coarse but sweet

Most gardeners opt out of planting mind of this 7 year old, because my dad would plant a few rows of watermelon from end to end of the field. There would also be a row of cantaloupe there, and my brother and I would utilize our sharp hoes to keep everything weed free.

There were three varieties of watermelon my dad chose to plant each year. There was the big striped Crimson Sweet, the dark green Black Diamond, and the light green Charleston Gray. All of those varieties are still available in seed form today. Unfortunately, at least in my opinion, those who plant watermelon today seem to favor has been bone dry for many years the small seedless varieties, for the all the way from somewhere in good reason that the small ones fit in small gardens We raised hundreds of melons

river on to that 40 acre field of Atlas to the sale barn on Saturdays and sell out about \$3.50 or more and take While we like lillies all right, both Steve set the water to trickle on The muddy bottoms are the garlic sorghum with huge heads of white would appear at church socials and in the fridge. They must be pretty But Atlas Sorgo was far from the picnic Kids would eventually locate grocery shelves!

the field down by the river and help themselves. But nobody cared because there were plenty to go around.

Kay

Melia

But the fun was short lived. In the spring of 1942, the old Arkansas flooded, and the irrigation system was washed away. Floods were seemingly regular events in those days, until the John Martin dam and reservoir was built in eastern Colorado near La Junta. Almost unbelievably, the Arkansas River eastern Colorado to somewhere southwest of Great Bend.

Today, the small watermelon is (and tons of Atlas Sorgo) in those King. They seem to be available at days. We would haul them to town the Supermarket year around. Shell but apparently didn't go for irises. them there in the parking lot. They home a watermelon that fits easily Steve and I will tell you that the bed and left it on while we club meetings and most everyone's good. They seem to fly off the

Open Season

I harvested our garlic crop on Sunday.

When we bought this house almost 20 years ago, there was an herb garden beside the back deck. It was a modest affair about the size of two card tables, delineated by three logs and a sidewalk.

I'm not sure what was in the garden, because we bought the house in the fall, when most of the plants were gone.

The former owner loved lillies, iris is our favorite flower. So we went to church. After the area was planted irises in that bed, never nice and wet, he turned the water washed and dried them on a piece dreaming of the mishmash we would end up with.

In the spring, we had a gorgeous The only other herb in the bed to make it through our replanting was the mint, which seems to think that it should be the center of every party.

So for the last 19 years, we have enjoyed the irises blooming in May and the garlic the rest of the

Now, our garlic isn't like what you buy in the store. If I get a head half the size of store-bought garlic, I'm really happy.

It might be that we have a different variety than what the I am not - I can't get the garlic out professional growers use or, more of the ground. likely, ours doesn't have the room or get the fertilizer to grow to of my crop hid under the flowers. "normal" sizes.

Whatever, the reason, we're happy with our harvest, and the and bottoms off. The tops are the flavor is great.

off to let it seep deep into the roots of the plants.

iris display and a bunch of garlic. he was trimming bushes, I pulled Believe me, even with the damp

> ground, it's not an easy job. Some of the bulbs came up with

little or no effort. Some wouldn't come up at all, and all I got was a stem with seeds on top.

The problem is the irises. If fresh mint.... the garlic matures under an iris

rhizome, it's stuck. Unless I am willing to remove the iris – which

Cynthia

But, I only lost about one-tenth The rest came out nicely.

The next step is to cut the tops seeds, which I will dry and scatter So early the other morning, over the bed later in the month. bulbs.

After cutting off the bulbs, I of newspaper. After drying, it goes into a small paper sack - if you Then Sunday evening, while store it in plastic, it'll rot.

Now, I have my garlic. It won't last the whole year, but every time we use it this winter, we'll be enjoying the fruits of our iris garden.

And the mint, well, it's a nuisance, but let me tell you about the mojitos you can make with

Reader enjoyed the great Fourth of July Celebration **Letter to the Editor** Letter to the Editor:

We had great July 4th celebration

Old County Church was inspiring. The contests were fun. The avenue of flags was unique. We would not want to miss anyone who helped

-Honor Roll–

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Mike Antholz, St. Francis; Marvin Zimbelman, St. Francis; Paul Morrison, Aurora, Colo.; Kenneth Deardoff, Peoria, Ariz.; Bill Smull, Tacoma, Wash.; Don Krantz, McDonald;

due to the efforts of many people. in any way. The weather was great celebrated!

The Neitzel brother's patriotism for watching the beautiful display was the start. The program at the of fireworks. Our country's birthday was

Sincerely, Marie Holzworth St. Francis

Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My Flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.





The Saint Francis Herald

(USPS 475-960)

A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year \$38 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$28 extra per year (except APO/ FPO).POSTMASTER: Sendchangeof

address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan.

67756-1050

Nor'West Newspapers

8:30 a.m.- noon - 1:00-5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday (785)332-3162 Fax-(785)332-3001E-mail - sf.herald@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Karen Krien ····· Editor/Publisher Tim Burr ····· Advertising Manager Doug Sloper ······Office Manager Margaret Bucholtz ······Columnist

Church of Christ 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 9 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m. **United Methodist** Church Office 332-2292, Church 332-2254, 512 S. Scott Pastor Warren Cico Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Seventh-Day **Adventist Church** 423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams **Pastor James McCurdy** Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45

St. Francis of Assisi **Catholic Church** 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Carlos Ruiz Santos 1st Sunday of the month Morning Mass 8:30 am Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m. Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 **Pastor Chris Farmer** Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Communion 3rd Sunday

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.

First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Church Service 10:15 a.m.

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

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.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC 202 N. College **Pastor Randy Nelson** Church 332-2928 Parsonage 332-2312 Worship 9:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday

Equity Knodel Funeral Home 202 S. Benton • St. Francis

St. Francis

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Saint Francis Herald