



Man accused of threats against office, courthouse

By Amanda Miller
amiller@nwkansas.com

The pre-trial motions for a man accused of threatening the courthouse and a local attorney's office took place on Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Cheyenne County Courthouse. Security was tight as Vance White, formerly of St. Francis, appeared before Sherman County Judge Jack Burr.

Judge Burr presided over the hearing in the District Court of Cheyenne County, for the time being. Prosecution for the state was Assistant Attorney General Steven Karrer. Steve Cott of Garden City represented Mr. White.

White has been charged with two counts of aggravated criminal threats, two counts of harassment by telephone, and two counts of stalking.

White was arrested in Salina on July 2, and transported back to St. Francis. He made his first appearance in Cheyenne County District Court on July 5. After the preliminary hearing, his bond was reduced to \$50,000, with the requirement to be supervised by court services. His bond requirements were also loosened to allow travel, specifically for his employment as a truck driver.

At the pre-trial hearing, Judge Burr stated he would hear the motions, however, he would not be making any decisions.

Instead, he would take all motions under advisement for the day, because a request for a change of judge had been filed.

The defense made a motion of evidence that it wished to present. White took the stand, and testified for some time. There was also a motion for a change of venue, as well as a motion for an expanded jury pool. All these motions were taken under advisement.

A motion was made of a transcript request of the preliminary hearing. The judge said this was currently being worked on, and was granted.

Due to the distance between his client and himself, the attorney for the defense said White would like more time before the trial date that is set for March 10. Mr. Cott said he spoke with White, and they were willing to waive the right to speedy trial to give themselves more time to prepare. Judge Burr agreed to the motion, and vacated the current trial date.

Judge Burr said that he would get in contact with both parties when he hears from the affidavit regarding a change of judge. At that time, the judge said he would do a bond hearing, by phone, if needed.

The date for the trial has not been set until the question of judge appointment has been settled.



MILDRED BURR, center, enjoyed her singing Valentine Friday afternoon. Those singing with the St. Francis High School music department were (l to r) Payton Biems, Ryan Grover, Jacob Butler, Michaela Ford and Dallas Reed.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Trauma center now Level IV

The trauma center at the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis has been designated as a Level IV Trauma Center by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

"Trauma center designation is one component of a comprehensive statewide trauma system designed to get patients with life-threatening injuries to a hospital with the necessary resources," said Robert Moser, M.D., Kansas Department of Health and Environment secretary, and state health officer.

"We congratulate Cheyenne County Hospital for serving as a vital resource when every second matters."

Level IV trauma centers are rural hospitals whose primary role is to stabilize seriously injured patients. If necessary, they are transferred to a higher level trauma center. Hospitals that have achieved Level IV trauma center designations have demonstrated a commitment to providing optimal care for those who have been seriously injured.

Designated trauma centers must meet the essential criteria that ensure trauma care capability and institutional performance as outlined by the American College of Surgeons and endorsed by the Kansas Advisory Committee on Trauma.

There are four separate categories of designation by the Kansas Trauma Program. Each category has a specific criteria that must be met by a facility seeking that level of designation. A trauma care system includes a network

of hospitals providing a spectrum of care for the injured patients. Trauma center designations are based on the hospital's care capability, from the highest, Level I, to hospitals designated Level IV.

Injuries are a leading cause of death and disability in Kansas. Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Trauma Program works to assure those that are injured in Kansas have access to a organized system of trauma care that offers them the best chance of recovery.

Sweetheart couples chosen, their stories told

By Amanda Miller
amiller@nwkansas.com

Over the last few weeks, readers of The Saint Francis Herald have been casting their ballots, voting for the Cheyenne County Sweetheart

Couples that they thought were most deserving. Nearly 40 Cheyenne County couples received votes in the bright pink and red cans at participating businesses.

After all the votes were counted,

two winners emerged! Bill and Neala Carmichael and Walter and Fern Forsythe are the Sweetheart Couples contest winners.

A lot of people participated in the contest. There were more ballots

collected this year than last year.

"We had the highest vote count we have had in several years," said Tim Burr, Herald contest coordinator.

On Monday, The Flower Shop

delivered a bouquet of pink roses to the Forsythe's home and The Classic Rose took a bouquet of red roses to the Carmichael's.

Businesses that participated in the contest were Saintry Liquor,

Owens True Value, Stuart's Jewelry, Donna's Gift Palace, Methodist Thrift Store, The Classic Rose, The Flower Shop and The Saint Francis Herald.

Each of the couples are featured.

Bill and Neala Carmichael

Bill Gary Carmichael and Neala Nadyne Gerdes were married on June 22, 1958, in Benkelman, Neb. This year they are celebrating 56 happily married years.

Bill was born in Cheyenne County, and grew up farming north of St. Francis. Neala was born and raised in Benkelman.

Neala said she knew who Bill was because he used to drive up to Benkelman and drag main in his yellow convertible. She thought he drove a pretty nice car.

The couple was set up on a blind date, and when Bill showed up, he was not driving that yellow convertible. He had just bought a new, shiny black Oldsmobile with a red stripe down it. Needless to say, Neala was impressed from the beginning. And not just by his car.

"From the very first date I knew there was something about him," Neala said.

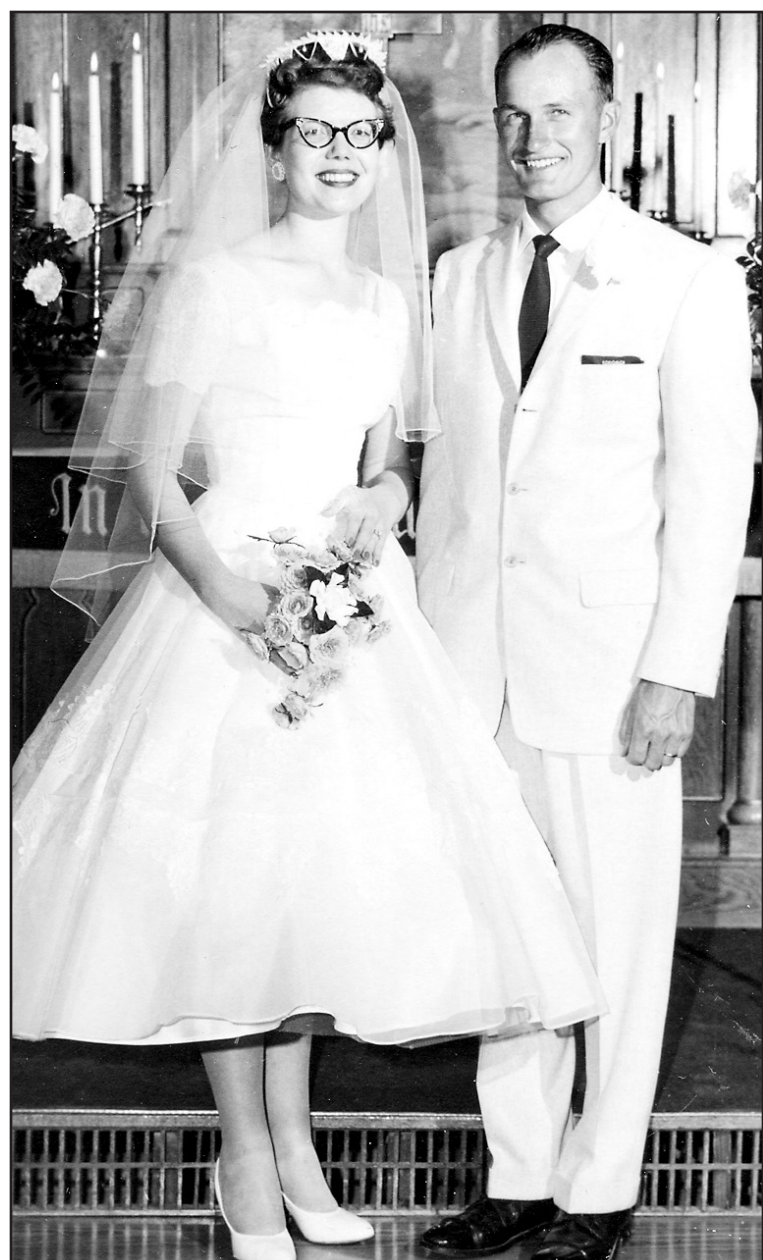
The two were married, and had two boys together: Scott "Hoagie" Carmichael and Brent Carmichael.

After making a couple moves, the family settled in Sterling, Colo. Here Bill worked in the oil fields, and eventually they started their own business in the industry. They said even when they lived in Sterling, they came home to St. Francis a lot to visit Bill's parents. The boys always felt close to this town.

Bill and Neala moved back to St. Francis in 2007.

When asked if they had any advice for young couples, Bill said, "Treat her good, and always take care of each other."

Neala said to pay attention when you take your vows of in sickness and health. You have to take care of each other throughout your relationship. She said they never



Bill and Neala Carmichael

did anything without stopping to think about how their actions would affect the other person.

"Bill was always a great listener, and I so much like that trait," she said.

Neala said always think of the "Three C's": Caring, Compassion, and Commitment. With those three things, everything always works out. And of course, they all start with love.

Walter and Fern Forsythe

Walter William Forsythe and Fern Adaline Tracy were married on Aug. 5, 1956, in Haigler, Neb. This year they will be celebrating their 58th wedding anniversary.

Walter said that when he returned from the war in Germany, his brother Ernie introduced him to Fern.

"We have been enjoying the Ferris wheel ride together ever since," he said.

Walter was born in Cheyenne County, on the family farm near the Sherman County line. He said he worked on the farm and was a janitor at the school.

Fern was born and raised in Haigler. She drove a school bus for the St. Francis schools for 33 years.

Walter and Fern said they worked together on everything, even building the house they live in. That is how their marriage has lasted so long.

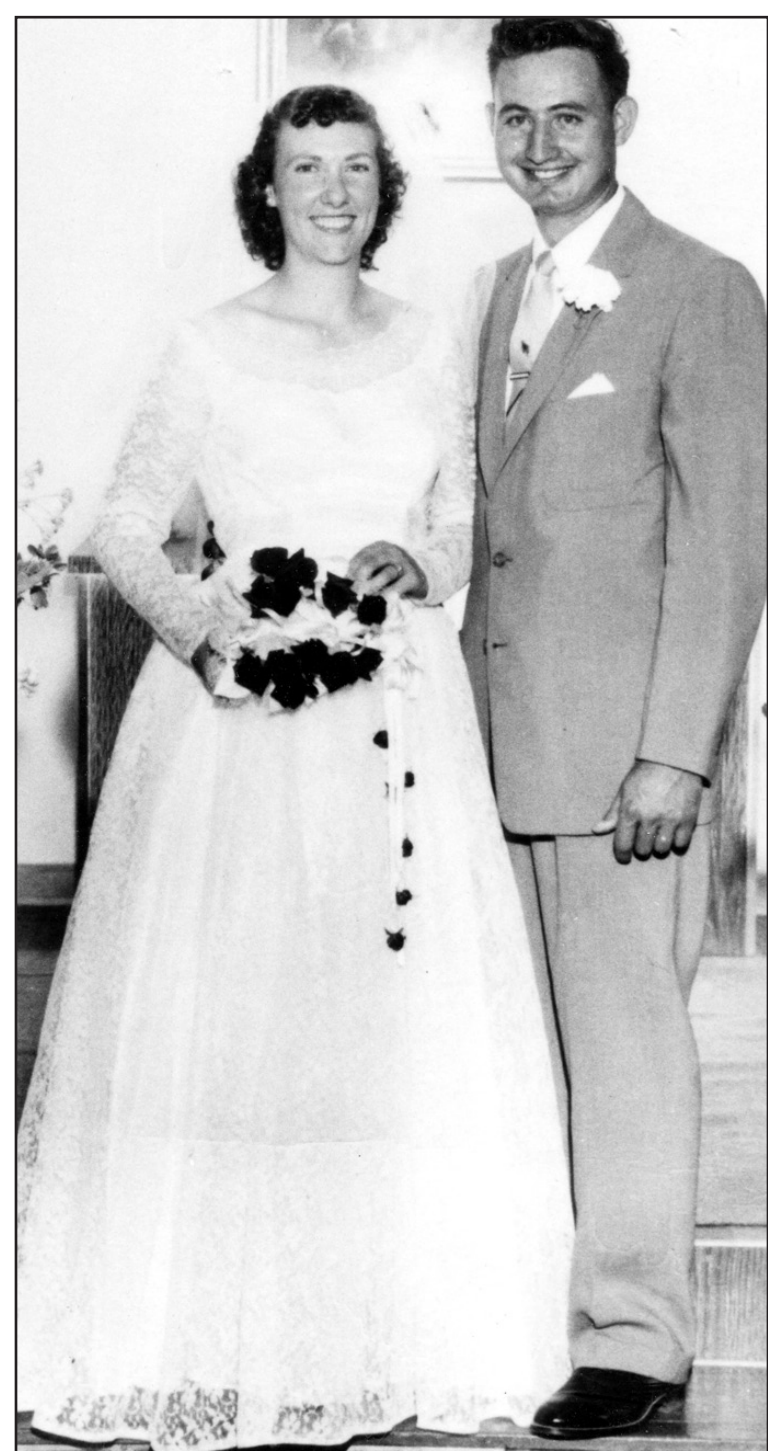
"She drove the nails in, and I told her where to put them," Walter said.

He said they did everything on their own, and accomplishing things together made them stronger.

On their 50th wedding anniversary, Walter and Fern were both able to wear their original wedding dress and suit from their wedding day and celebrate.

The couple has four daughters: Amelia Zuege, Connie Kirk, Bernice Wieck and Dixie Gleason. They have 13 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren as well.

Their advice to young couples is to always work together.



Walter and Fern Forsythe

