



COLBY FREE PRESS

He turns leftovers into hobby

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press
“I never thought I’d be doing what I’m doing,” said Pete Morrison of Colby, talking about his new endeavor — woodworking. Morrison makes, and then gives away, wooden items from scraps of lumber and carpeting left over from construction of Fairview Estates, where he lives.

His items include footstools of various sizes, a picnic table and stools, bookcases, book ends, rectangular and kidney shaped end tables (some carpeted), and many other items.

“People offer to pay, but I don’t charge. It’s scrap lumber that came from Fairview Estates,” he said.

Morrison said he had done some woodworking before moving to Fairview, but it escalated after he moved there in July of 2000, where he makes the items in his garage.

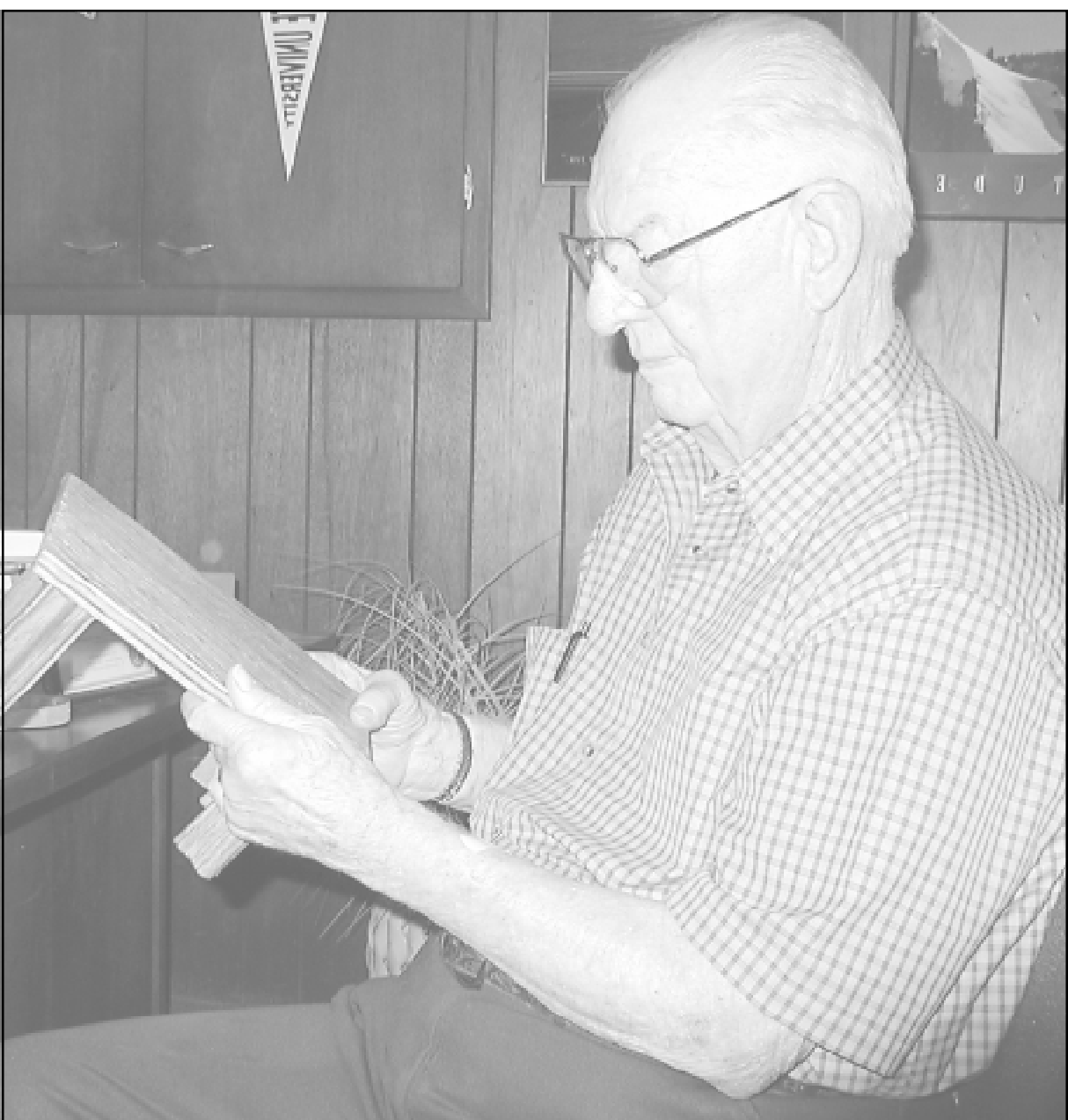
“A little over a year ago, I was out there (Fairview Estates) quite a bit before they got it completed and got to know the contractor and workmen,” he said. “When we moved in on July 24, they soon found out that I was going to make this stuff in my garage and the contractor said they would save me the scrap lumber after they saw two or three of my good footstools.”

Morrison said they left him all the scraps from 48 apartments, and that at that time he was making big footstools. “Now I’m getting into this little stuff. It’s more fun,” he said.

Morrison says he will make items to order. An example, he mentioned, was Betty Fitzsimmons calling to say that Miriam Beck needed a footstool 14 inches high, 17 inches long, and 11 inches wide to get her feet up high after being released from the nursing home to her own home. “I made it to her specifications,” he said.

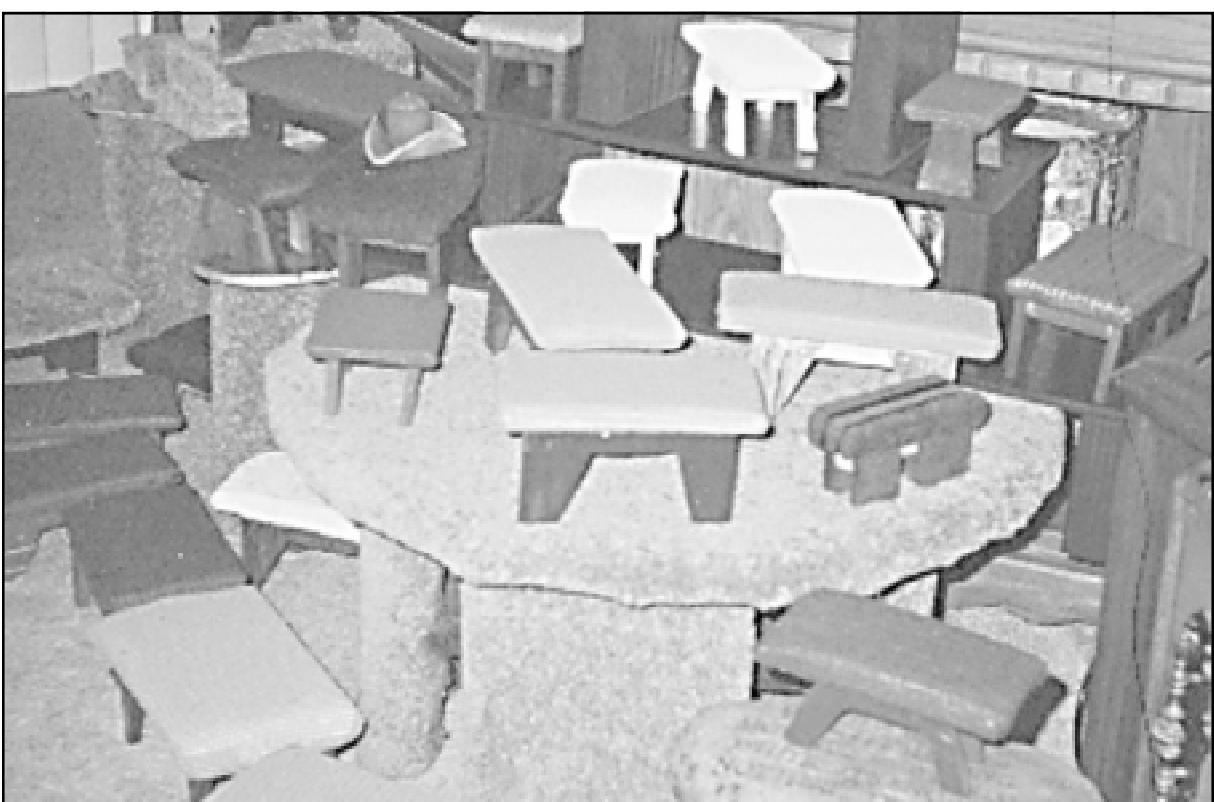
Before retiring, Morrison made his living in dry-cleaning and real estate. He was also involved with city politics. He was the first WWII veteran to be elected 6th District Commander of the American Legion, president of the Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce, Commander of the American Legion, was on the City Council for six years, and mayor for two years.

Morrison said people have been donating building materials to him. “But, don’t bring me any more right now. I’ve got plenty,” he said.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Pete Morrison checked the work on his latest footstool, a hobby he picked up after moving to Fairview Estates. Morrison said he is enjoying his new hobby and has made many items for friends and family and will make special requested items. **BELOW:** A sample of the different sizes and shapes of footstools Morrison has created.



Jeep found

Vehicle stolen in Hoxie found in Utah, but fleers are still free

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Authorities continue tracking a couple after they eluded police in Thomas County over one month ago during a high-speed chase that involved accosting a teen-age girl at knife point and stealing a car here and in Sheridan County.

Still hot on their trail, the newest break came when the 1991 Jeep Cherokee that was stolen in Hoxie, was recently found in Tremonton, Utah, said Thomas County Sheriff’s Investigator C.D. Hopper.

Following the recovery of the Jeep on Thursday, Aug. 23, he said, the couple is believed to have stolen another car parked not even 100 yards away from the Jeep.

Authorities in Tremonton then called Sheridan County Sheriff Jim Johnson to notify him and, as of today, the Jeep is still in Utah.

“When the police in Tremonton are done with their investigation,” Johnson said Thursday, “the owners of the Jeep will then have to get to Utah and get their car back.”

“Less than one week after police found the Jeep,” Hopper said, “we got another call — this time from the Ogden Police Department saying they had recovered the car stolen in Tremonton.”

Hopper declined to talk about specific details on the two newest stolen vehicles, but did say he was fairly sure the thefts were linked to the same two people.

“We are still trying to find out if any other cars were stolen in the Ogden area after police found the other car from Tremonton on Monday, Aug. 27,” Hopper said, adding that he hoped to

hear something back from the Ogden authorities Thursday or today.

During the past few weeks, both people have been identified from fingerprints left on the first stolen vehicle involved in the high-speed chase, a 1993 green Mazda pickup.

The man, Kristopher Aaron Lambert, 21, of Mississippi, is described as white, 5’11” tall and weighs 150 pounds. His companion, Tina Janice Pearce, 23, also from Mississippi, is white, 5’6” tall with brown hair and a noticeably freckled face.

Hopper said the lead agency in the investigation is the Thomas County Sheriff’s Office with support from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has issued a fugitive warrant on Lambert and a second warrant is expected in the next few days on Pearce.

The incident started on Wednesday, Aug. 8, when Lambert and Pearce are alleged to have stolen a pickup, fled from the Thomas County Sheriff’s deputies on I-70, drove off the roadway, through a fence and into a corn field.

The pair then held a 17-year-old Colby girl at knifepoint and stole her 1998 Ford Escort. On Thursday, Aug. 9, authorities found the Ford Escort abandoned at the Hoxie Grain Company and the white 1991 Jeep Cherokee was reported stolen. As authorities were busy discounting many varied theories as to the couple’s whereabouts, the next solid lead was not to happen until late August.

“We feel that right now we are on their trail and we are looking at every possible lead that comes through,” Hopper said. “They are about a week ahead of us.”

New test alert issued

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Colby Community College Adult Education Center is reminding people who might be close to completing their GED (General Educational Development) that at the end of December of 2001 if they haven’t finished their scores won’t count. Nance Munderloh, GED instructor, said beginning in January of 2002, a new test will be administered. “Individuals who have begun the testing process for their GED

must complete the entire battery of five tests and earn their diploma by Dec. 21, 2001 or their scores will no longer be valid and they will be required to start the testing process over again in January of 2002,” she said.

After the new tests are introduced in January 2002, only test scores from the new tests will count toward earning a GED diploma. “We sure don’t want people to lose their current scores,” she said. For questions or information, call Munderloh at 462-4663.

Legislative committee begins discussion of redistricting options

By JOHN MILBURN

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators have narrowed their options for redrawing the state’s four congressional districts. But they also are leaving themselves room to maneuver.

“I think we know where the hot spots are. We’re going to have to talk about Lawrence and Douglas County,” Sen. David Adkins, co-chairman of the House-Senate committee redrawing congressional boundaries, said Thursday.

Adkins, R-Leawood, was referring to the fight over how to divide the county and-or city between the 2nd and 3rd districts.

Republicans are receptive to the idea, while Democrats and most Lawrence and University of Kansas

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Sen. David Atkins
co-chair of committee

supporters say such a division would be detrimental because it would split what they consider “a community of interest.”

The city is in the 3rd District, which also includes Johnson, Wyandotte and Miami counties and is represented by Democrat Dennis Moore.

Parts of rural Douglas County are in the 2nd District represented by Repub-

lican Jim Ryun.

Thursday’s deliberations left the committee with no fewer than seven proposed maps, including one suggested this spring by Democrats. That plan would leave Douglas County in the 3rd District and split the rural, southern portion of Johnson County from its Kansas City suburbs.

Douglas County is viewed as a

battleground in the fight for the 3rd District. Moore, serving his second term, defeated Republican incumbent Vince Snowbarger in 1998.

“A final redistricting plan must not be only based on the ‘one person, one vote’ principle, but it should avoid partisan gerrymandering and the needless splitting of a city,” said Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka.

Adkins said the goal is to have the committee approve a plan during its Oct. 2 meeting. The plan would need approval from the Legislature next year.

“The decisions aren’t going to get any easier,” said Adkins.

The state redraws its congressional, legislative and State Board of Education districts every 10 years to reflect

shifts in population. The goal is to make districts as equal in population as possible.

The ideal population for each congressional district is 672,105.

The 2nd District must gain about 31,000 residents, indicating it should grow in size. The 3rd District must lose about 61,000, meaning it should shrink.

Democrats argue that their plan for the two districts preserves a “community of interest” that includes Lawrence and Johnson County’s suburbs and is linked by Kansas Highway 10.

Republican Todd Tiahrt’s 4th District in the Wichita area must lose 3,600 while the 1st District, represented by Republican Jerry Moran, must gain 34,000.

The committee also raised concerns

about the validity of state-adjusted numbers used for redrawing legislative districts.

The Kansas Constitution requires the official census figure be tweaked to account for students and military personnel.

Those people are counted in their self-declared permanent residence. Those not calling Kansas home are not counted by the state or any other state.

Some legislators said it made little sense that people incarcerated in prisons and military prisons are counted but cannot vote, while students and soldiers who can vote are lost in the shuffle.

Adkins and others suggested the process needs to be modified or abolished through a constitutional amendment.

Briefly

Weather: Enjoy the cool

Enjoy the cool because it’s here to stay — at least for another day, if the National Weather Service forecast holds up. Tonight they are calling for a 30 percent chance for thunderstorms, cloudy skies, lows 45-50 and north winds 10-20 mph. Then on Saturday, thunderstorms chances increase to 40 percent under cloudy skies, high temperatures only 60-65 and strong north winds 15-25 mph. Saturday night is expected to be chilly with lows around 40 and partly cloudy conditions. Sunday and Monday will see temperatures warming into the middle 70s with overnight lows in the upper 40s to perhaps around 50. Thursday’s high in Colby was 94 and the overnight low this morning was 52. Precipitation for the month remains at 0.13 inches. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 79 degrees.

The records for Sept. 7: 102 in 1959 and 28 in 1898. (*The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.*)

Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday in the commissioners room of the courthouse. Larry Jumper, landfill supervisor, will report on landfill activity at 9 a.m. No other appointments are scheduled.

Siren test Monday

The Thomas County tornado sirens will be tested from 10-11 a.m., Monday, Sept. 10, said John Lygeros, emer-

gency management coordinator. The reason for the longer times, he said, was due to the variety of equipment that needs to be tested.

Singles dance tonight

The Colby Singles Group will hold its monthly dance beginning at 8 p.m., tonight, said Don Birzer, coordinator. This month’s entertainment will feature Swingin’ Country from Imperial, Neb. and is open to all single people and alumni. For questions or further details, call Birzer at 462-2127.

Auditions set at college

Auditions for the upcoming performance “Heaven Can

Wait” will be held next week at Colby Community College, said Debbie Schwanke, public information director. Actors are needed to fill a variety of parts in this play with auditions planned for Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 10 and 11, at 7 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Building on the campus. For questions, call Walter Yuhre, drama department, (785) 462-3968.

Moran on television tonight

U.S. Congressman Jerry Moran will discuss current issues in Congress on Smoky Hills Public Television, tonight from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., said Travis Murphy, public relations for Moran. In addition to issues, Moran plans to talk about his “Big Listening Tour,” during which he stopped in 66 counties that make up his district.

