

Rexford's century-old society page filled with health tips, events

Local news and tips for better living were given in *The Rexford New*, which was published continuously from April 24, 1903, through May 28, 1942.

This is part of a series of articles from the paper. Microfilms of the paper are available at the Thomas County Historical Society.

The June 23, 1903 issue reported a child of Henry Jones had swallowed some tin foil Thursday. She was brought immediately to the doctor and up to the writing the result was unknown.

The May 22, 1903 issue reported the following.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dible on May 21.



Maxine Nelson • A Peek at the Past

S.G. Glenn had partially closed the deal for the purchase of the Rexford News from W.H. Miller, according to the Colby Tribune.

Mr. and Mrs. B.W. Walter celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at their home in Bloomfield last Tuesday evening.

Ira M. and C.C. Thompson are going to tear down the building which C.C. had used as a sales room

and erect a new frame store building 50x90, which they will occupy as a department.

The new building will have a full plate glass front, pressed steel ceiling, new fixtures throughout, and with the possible exception of the Mercantile Company's building at Colby will be the largest store room in Thomas County.

The new firm will employ six

clerks to care for the increasing crowd which makes Rexford its trading point.

The post office and Ira M. Thompson's land office will remain in the south room of the Redmond building and the north room will be used by the firm as a ware room.

The Lead Pencil Evil

The health column of the May 18, 1905 issue exhorts school teachers to be very strict about pupils putting lead pencils in their mouth.

One practical lesson that should be taught in every school is that a lead pencil must never be put in the mouth.

More important than the study of algebra, Greek or Latin, the study

of rhetoric or the study of literature, is the lesson that a lead pencil should never be stuck in the mouth. Nearly every scholar has this habit, and very pernicious habit it is.

If the school teacher would insist upon this as a rule, and correct every child that has this filthy habit, it could be broken up.

People who have passed through school and have formed the habit of putting the pencil to the lips every time it is used are beyond hope. But with the children something could be done.

The pencil does not write so well after it has been wet as before, but there seems to be a notion that in order to make the pencil write, it must be moistened with the lips. This is not true.

Probably everybody knows it is not true.

In public places, people who are very squeamish, ordinarily, will pick up a pencil that has been used by hundreds of other people, and the first thing they do it to put it in the

mouth.

It is a habit that ought to be broken up. Every school teacher should take up the crusade. P

upils should be told frequently never to put the pencil in their mouths.

When caught doing it, some sort of punishment should be inflicted upon them until they get into their heads that the practice is ridiculous and dangerous to health.

While the graphite that composes the so-called lead of the pencil is not of itself a very harmful substance to be taken into the mouth, yet the point of the pencil is necessarily dirty.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day
Hi-Plains Co-op

Wheat	\$3.33
Corn	\$2.40
Milo	\$3.94
Soybeans	\$5.05

Mom, daughter's distance is more than miles

DEAR ABBY: I am 39 and never had a good relationship with my mother. I have known all my life that I am her least favorite of my siblings. Until recently, I accepted it.

The last time I visited Mom and Dad, I brought my children. Mother was so rude and mean to them that my 5-year-old refused to go into her house. We ended up staying at my grandmother's. My 5-year-old asked me why his grandma doesn't love him like she does his cousin. I wasn't sure how to answer.

When we returned home I wrote Mother a letter telling her exactly how I feel, and why. I said she could treat me as she pleased, but not to take it out on my children. I told her if she ever found it in her heart to treat us with the love and respect we deserve, she knows how to reach me.

A few months later, my father had open heart surgery. Mother never called to let me know. It really hurt. I have called and left several messages on their answering machine without a return call. Should I give up and accept the fact that my parents gave me life, but do not want me in their lives? Or should I keep trying? It has been eight months since we last spoke. We live 1,500 miles apart, and I know long-distance relationships are difficult, but I am their daughter.

— DISTRAUGHT IN FLORIDA

DEAR DISTRAUGHT: The physical distance between you



Abigail Van Buren • Dear Abby

and your mother is not the problem. The "distance" between you was created long ago, and unless your mother is willing to cooperate, I see no reason to continue courting rejection.

Talk to your siblings and ask them to keep you informed about what's going on with your parents. If you expect nothing, you can't be hurt.

You are a parent now, and it is your duty to protect and nurture your children. Please do not feel guilty. Perhaps through neighbors and friends you can "adopt" some loving grandparent substitutes who are closer to home. It might be a healthier solution for all concerned.

DEAR ABBY: Our precious mother passed away in 1983 and left me her mink stole. I didn't think I'd ever wear it, so I gave it to my older sister.

This year for Christmas, my sister gave me the delightful gift of a teddy bear made from Mom's stole!

It arrived in a large box filled with packing peanuts.

At the bottom of the box was a very worn penny. The date on it was 1997, the same year our brother

passed away after a brief illness.

A few months before his death, he and his high school sweetheart had married after 40 years of marriage to other mates. They were like teenagers, so in love and so happy. Needless to say, his death was devastating.

My sister swears she didn't put the penny in the box.

I can usually find a logical explanation for strange phenomena, but this really touched me.

My sister and I believe the penny symbolizes a link between Mom and our brother, who are now with Dad — and together they sent us this "article of faith."

I hope you'll print this, Abby. So many people need reassurance to help them through. I did, and now my faith has been restored.

— LINDA L. JOHNSON, MIDLOTHIAN, VA.

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Community Calendar

MONDAY, January 20, 2003
Duplicate Bridge, airport, 1 p.m.
Quit smoking support group, 775 E. College Drive, 1 p.m.
Monday Afternoon Bridge, Meadowlark Manor, 1 p.m.
Take Off Pounds Sensibly, Methodist Church, 7 p.m.
Rexford Lions, Rexford Cafe, 7 p.m. (2nd & 4th Mondays)
Pride of the Prairie Orchestra practice, Colby Community College Band Room, Cultural Arts Center, 7:30-9 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous, City Hall Basement, 8:30 p.m.

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