

# Opinion



**Stan Clark**  
● Under the Dome

## This needs our attention

A mineral deed is a legal document that conveys ownership of minerals (usually oil and gas) from one person to another; minerals are real property in Kansas. Royalty and overriding royalty interests are ownership interests in producing gas and oil wells; royalty interests are personal property in Kansas. Several times over the past four or five years Cobra Petroleum Company of Ft. Worth, Texas has purchased mineral and royalty interests and filed a mineral and royalty deed on land within my legislative district. It is not uncommon that an oil firm or lease hound would lease land for oil exploration purposes but to purchase minerals or royalty interests with a deed is not common practice.

A recent example in Rooks County is where a person had a 1.3 percent working royalty ownership interest in the wells on an 80-acre parcel of land. This person sold his interest to Cobra but the document that he signed covered not only the 1.3 percent royalty interest but the mineral interest and oil and gas royalty interest on the entire 640-acre section of land.

When documents like this are brought to the county Register of Deeds little can be done except file the deed and collect a filing fee.

Because the land description was not accurate, a cloud on the title has been created on the entire section where the royalty interest was located. Any new or additional oil drilling will involve additional abstracting and title examination expense to clear the title before drilling will commence. Frequently these costs will be greater than the purchase price offered on the particular tract. This also creates a headache for the operator of the lease as small fractional interests are further divided in the distribution of income from the oil and gas that is pumped on the parcel and can become a nightmare for the county treasurer and clerk in determining the taxes due from the various parties.

Another example, also in Rooks County, involves royalty interests on 8 oil wells within the City of Stockton. This person owns no land in Stockton, just a fractional interest on 8 producing oil wells. When this person sold his interest to Cobra (which then sold part of its new interest to two additional parties) the former owner conveyed all his interest in all oil and gas properties in the entire county and clouded the title to all owners of real estate in a four square mile area that includes all real estate in the city limits of Stockton.

Rooks County is only being used as an example but I am aware of similar situations in 8 other counties in western Kansas.

The Attorney General, several attorneys, registers of deeds, oil and gas attorneys, abstractors, and legislators are working to stop these actions, to clear the titles to properties that have been affected by this unfortunate set of circumstances and to draft appropriate legislation to prevent similar actions in the future. If we don't stop these filings, getting clear title to land and figuring accurate tax statements will become almost impossible. New enhanced methods of oil recovery are being implemented by injecting water or carbon dioxide down some existing wells which forces oil to other wells and the income is then distributed to all the ownership interests in the wells within the defined recovery unit.

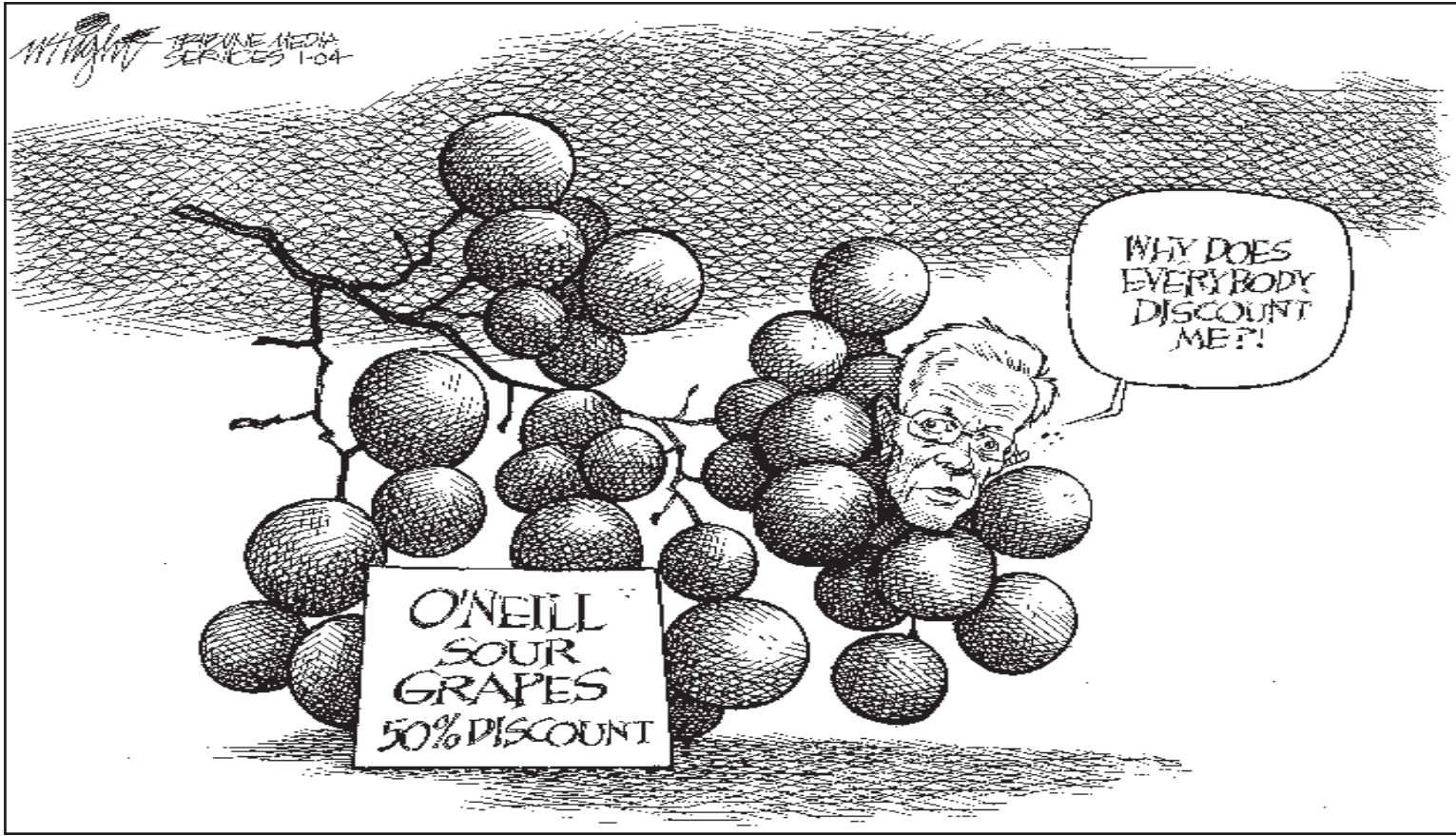
Please feel free to contact me on this or any issue. I can be reached by writing to:

Sen. Stan Clark  
State Capitol-Room 449-N  
Topeka, Kan. 66612  
Or call 1-800-432-3924, 785-296-7399; by fax 801-457-9064; or e-mail sclark@ink.org.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Clark represents the 40th District.*

Comments to any opinions expressed on this page are encouraged. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, Kan., 67701. Or e-mail td@nwkansans.com.



## It's all shocking, but...

**NOTHING** is happening today that didn't take place just a few years ago. It's just that the media is a non-stop operation and consequently pay attention to things not paid attention to years ago.

That's the argument.

But things are happening today in our society that didn't happen just a few years ago.

When you were in high school — and I'm now visiting with parents who have some age in their favor — were there openly same-sex experiments going on in your school's hallways? Don't think so. Now, if you have been paying attention, that seems to be something that is sweeping the country. High schoolers, and in some cases, junior high schoolers, openly hugging, kissing and walking hand-in-hand with their chosen same-sex friend. We have some loosely-knitted brain malfunctioners who see this as healthy, as a means of satisfying curiosity, as normal. Normal?

There are some schools out there that have in-house daycare centers. That's right. That way teenagers who have babies have a place to put them while they sit in classrooms down the hallway.

Convenient.

Sleepovers involving Junior and Missy. Reports indicate it is becoming more and more common — and acceptable — for high schoolers to invite their boyfriend or girlfriend to spend the night. And in the home of their parents. In the same bedroom.

The availability of booze and drugs. And how those things are obtained with ease.

That's just the way it is.

These are just examples.

Some blame the liberalization on television and the movies. And of course the Internet. Kids see this kind of behavior round-the-clock and after it is embedded in their skulls they accept it as acceptable, as normal, as something that "everybody is doing."

Maybe they are right. Of course not "everybody" is doing it, but more and more are.



**Tom Dreiling**

● My Turn

I just wonder what it will be like in just a few years from now. Maybe there is a reason we are on this earth no longer than we are. It may be our creator's way of sparing us from changes that he knows we could never accept, could never understand.

Each generation is a generation of social change. And those of us in the so-called senior years, probably were doing things our parents couldn't understand, were critical of, and shook their heads at. Like we are doing now as we observe the behavior of today's kids.

But hang in there. The Iowa caucuses are just days away.

**POINTS** to Ponder as you head into a weekend:

- Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.
- Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- Always do stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.
- Eat a live toad in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you for the rest of the day. (From Fred Miller as shared by Lois Miller)
- I like these kind of touch-and-go observations.

**IN CASE** you needed further proof that the human race is doomed through stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods.

✓ On a hairdryer — Do not use while sleeping.

## The message was clear

*The following came from a loyal reader. It carries a powerful message. See if you don't agree.*

A young lady named Sally, relates an experience she had in a seminary class, given by her teacher, Dr. Smith. She says that Dr. Smith was known for his elaborate object lessons.

One particular day, Sally walked into the seminary and knew they were in for a fun day. On the wall was a big target and on a nearby table were many darts. Dr. Smith told the students to draw a picture of someone that they disliked or someone who had made them angry, and he would allow them to throw darts at the person's picture.

Sally's friend drew a picture of someone who had stolen her boyfriend. Another friend drew a picture of his little brother. Sally drew a picture of a former friend, putting a great deal of detail into her drawing, even drawing pimples on the face. Sally was pleased with the overall effect she had achieved.

The class lined up and began throwing darts. Some of the students threw their darts with such force that their targets were ripping apart. Sally looked forward to her turn, and was filled with disappointment when Dr. Smith, because of time limits, asked the students to return to their seats.

As Sally sat thinking about how disappointed she was because she didn't have a chance to throw any darts at her target, Dr. Smith began removing the targets from the wall. Underneath each target was a picture of Jesus. A hush fell over the room as each student viewed the

**T D**

● At Week's End

mangled picture of Jesus; holes and jagged marks covered His face and His eyes were pierced.

Dr. Smith said only these words: "In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Matthew 25:40.

No other words were necessary as tears filled the eyes of the students focused only on the picture of Christ.

Now comes a little test; you score either 100 or zero. It's your choice.

If you aren't ashamed to do this, please follow these directions.

Jesus said, "If you are ashamed of me, I will be ashamed of you, before My Father."

So...

(1) If you are not ashamed ... pass this story on.

(2) If you are ashamed ... don't.

Isn't it funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell in a hand basket?

Isn't it funny how we believe what the news-

(Really?)

✓ On a bag of chips — You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside. (A shoplifter's special?)

✓ On a bar of soap — "Directions: Use like regular soap." (And that would be how???...)

✓ On some frozen dinners — "Serving suggestion: Defrost." (But, it's "just" a suggestion.)

✓ On some dessert (printed on bottom) — "Do not turn upside down." (Well...duh, a bit late, huh!)

✓ On some bread pudding — "Product will be hot after heating." (No kidding?!)

✓ On a box containing an iron — "Do not iron clothes on body." (Take the fun out of everything.)

✓ On a bottle of cough medicine — "Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication." (We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5-year-olds with head-colds off those fork-lifts.)

✓ On a bottle of sleep aid — "Warning: May cause drowsiness." (Isn't that why it is being taken?)

✓ On most brands of Christmas lights — "For indoor or outdoor use only." (???????)

✓ On a packet of peanuts — "Warning: contains nuts." (Talk about a news flash)

✓ On an airline's packet of nuts — "Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts." (Step 3: maybe, uh...fly another airline?)

**I THINK** some moisture is on the way. I feel it in my bones.

**DO YOU** know what Jan. 29 is?

**HAVE** a good evening...and a good weekend! Plan to spend some time this weekend in the house of worship of your choice.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays. E-mail td@nwkansans.com, or call him at (785) 462-3963.*

papers say, but question what the Bible says?

Isn't it funny how everyone wants to go to heaven provided they do not have to believe, think, say, or do anything the Bible says? Or is it scary?

Isn't it funny how someone can say, "I believe in God," but still follow Satan who, by the way, also "believes" in God?

Isn't it funny how you can send a thousand jokes through e-mail and they spread like wild-fire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing?

Isn't it funny how the lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene pass freely through cyberspace, but the public discussion of Jesus is suppressed in the school and workplace?

Isn't it funny how someone can be so fired up for Christ on Sunday, but be an invisible Christian the rest of the week?

Are you laughing?

Isn't it funny how when you go to forward this message, you will not send it to many on your e-mail address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it to them?

Isn't it funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks?

Will YOU pass this on?

\*\*\*\*\*

*Got something for "At Week's End?" If so, e-mail td@nwkansans.com, fax (785) 462-7749 or regular mail to 155 W. 5th, Colby 67701.*

### COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963  
Colby, Kan. 67701

freepress@nwkansans.com

State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout Excellence, Column Writing, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography.

Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

**Tom A. Dreiling - Publisher**  
td@nwkansans.com

#### NEWS

**Patty Decker - Editor**  
pdecker@nwkansans.com

**Tisha Cox - General Assignment**

#### ADVERTISING

**Crystal Rucker - Advertising Representative**

crystalr@nwkansans.com

**Shelby Moses - Advertising Representative**

smoses@nwkansans.com

#### BUSINESS OFFICE

**Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager**  
**Danielle Silsbee - Bookkeeping & Ad Building**  
**Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator**

support@nwkansans.com

#### NOR'WEST PRESS

**Jim Bowker - General Manager**

**Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Ron VanLoenen, Judy McKnight**

THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except the day observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Haynes Publishing Co., 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE is paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, which is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news credited to it or not otherwise herein. Member Kansas Press Association, Inland Press Association and National Newspaper Association.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:** In Colby by carrier: 4 months \$32, 8 months \$47, 12 months \$64. By mail with in Colby and the nine-county region of Thomas, Sheridan, Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Logan and Gove counties: 4 months \$44, 8 months \$56, 12 months \$72. Other Kansas counties and surrounding states: 4 months \$51, 8 months \$61, 12 months \$75. All other states, \$75, 12 months.

**Nor'West Newspapers**  
Haynes Publishing Company

**Doonesbury**

● Gary Trudeau

