



COLBY FREE PRESS

TV finds its way to Bourquin's Campground

By **Patty Decker**
Free Press Editor

There's a chance one Colby business will be featured on a new reality series, "Trading Spouses" airing on Fox at 7 p.m., the next two Mondays, Feb. 14 and Feb. 21.

"We doubt that we will get much air time," said Dan Bourquin, co-owner of Bourquin's RV Park and Old Depot Restaurant, "but it was fun and educational to watch the filming process."

The production company, Rocket Science Laboratories, discovered Bourquins when one of its film crews was driving by on Interstate-70 sometime in October and spotted the campgrounds, Dan said.

"They liked the looks of our restaurant," he said, which originally was one of the old train depots in Colby.

Three weeks before the actual filming on Saturday, Nov. 20, they contacted the Bourquins about making provisions for that episode's featured couple — Mrs. O'Brien of Evergreen, Colo., and Mrs. Shackelford of Smithfield, Va.

Initially, Shirley said, the featured couple and family were to spend an evening at the RV park and restaurant.

However, plans changed on the day of filming when the crew's project manager, Pam Wilson, called and said they were running late and would only film the campground as the family and

motor home arrived.

"It turned out that they did film the restaurant briefly," she said, "but we would be surprised if it turns out to be more than a flash."

The Bourquins spoke about how busy the nearly 20-member crew was whether setting up outside lighting to film the motor home, the constant communication using mini-headsets or how everyone was always ready for action.

Probably the most memorable moment during the filming came when someone yelled, "They're in the building!" referring to the "Trading Spouses" couple.

"We about got knocked down," Shirley said, "when two camera and sound guys who just sat down in our dining room to eat, went charging out again with the big camera to our entrance area."

Although not expected, the "featured" father and daughter decided to come into the depot.

"We introduced ourselves and asked if they needed anything," Shirley said. After looking around, they played checkers for awhile and all that time the cameras were rolling.

Another filming location for this particular "Trading Spouses" episode was planned at the Colby Bowl and Fun Center.

After meeting with owners of Colby Bowl twice, Pam Wilson, unit manager with Rocket Science Laboratories, apologized for being unable to film there.

"We were really excited about the filming and so it was disappoint-

ing," said Charles Schwanke, co-owner of the bowling center, when they couldn't make it.

Another Colby business, Orscheln Farm and Home Supply, also met crew members and the featured family.

"The production company called asking if we could open two hours earlier on Sunday because they were all on their way to Evergreen, Colo. and needed warmer clothing," said Shawn Yost, manager of Orscheln's.

Coming from California, most of them weren't equipped for the cold weather, he said.

"They bought sleds, coats and more — spending almost \$2,000," Yost said.

The entire crew and the featured family also told Yost that they were "impressed with the people of Colby" for their overall hospitality during their stay.

Although this is the Bourquins off-season, Shirley said that they keep busy with repairs and renovations, along with adapting to Internet customers booking reservations or wanting motor coach tours.

"It's a fun business," Dan said, made even more fun when experiences like the television crew filming happen.

The couple opened the depot in May of 1991, but originally the Bourquins sold organic tomatoes. From tomatoes, the couple expanded to selling bread and crafts and with one thing leading to another the campground and restaurant followed.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: Dan and Shirley Bourquin, owners of Bourquin's RV Park and Old Depot Restaurant, spent time reminiscing about their experiences and possible national television debut next Monday. **RIGHT:** Yet the planning never stops for the Bourquins, who have already turned their sights toward another camp season and a special Valentine's Day candlelight dinner by reservation next week. Working 13 hours a day during their on-season from spring through late fall/early winter, the Valentine event is something new they are going to try, Shirley said.



Colby hospital hires new nurse anesthetist

By **Jan Katz Ackerman**
Colby Free Press

Citizens Medical Center, Inc. has announced the addition of a certified registered nurse anesthetist to its staff.

John Patterson began his duties in that field on Jan. 31,

"John has worked as a CRNA for the past 10 years, and has experience in all types of regional and general anesthesia," said Tama Unger, Director of Fund Development and Community Relations at the hospital.

Unger on Wednesday said Patterson earned his bachelor's degree in nursing from Mankato State University, Mankato, Minn., and completed his master's of science degree in anesthesia from Mount Marty College, Yankton, S.D.



John Patterson

She said he completed his residency at Sacred Heart Hospital, also at Yankton.

Patterson and his wife, Denise, have moved to a home just north of Colby. His interests include home remodeling, weight lifting and car restoration.

Many factors contributed to accident

By **Jan Katz Ackerman**
Colby Free Press

An initial account of an accident which claimed the life of a Colby man did not outline complete details of one authority's remarks.

Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn said on Tuesday a story in the *Colby Free Press* on Monday only listed one factor which could have contributed to an accident which killed Jordan Harris, 20-years-old.

Baughn said he told the paper there may have been several factors, including speed, alcohol and "freshly laid sand."

The article listed only the sand as a contributing factor.

"I never used the word mitigating, and I said alcohol was involved, but I could not say whether the driver was drinking. I must have said something about sand, but they were on a private road and they were trespassing," he said.

Baughn said he told the newspaper he was not the investigating of-

ficer, and while he must have discussed several factors which could have contributed to the accident, the sand was not the main or fatal factor.

"It was only my personal assessment since I'm not the investigation officer, but speed and alcohol were factors most contributory to the accident, again, in my estimation.

"The road should not be a consideration, as, since it was on private property. If there was no road, an 80-foot pit, or sand dunes, that, in my estimation, is immaterial," he said.

Harris, along with his three passengers, Tanner Brown, 20, and Steve Young, 20, both of Colby, and Tyler Baker, 20, Fort Collins, Colo., were traveling in a 1996 Chevy Blazer and were westbound on a private road east of Colby when Harris lost control of the sport utility vehicle.

Harris died as a result of his injuries, according to authorities, and all three passengers were treated for

minor injuries at Citizens Medical Center. None of the four occupants of the SUV were wearing seat belts.

Baughn said the preliminary report of the investigating officer says the officer's opinion of apparent contributing circumstances is that Harris was driving too fast for the conditions of the roadway. And, he said the road was clearly marked with a no trespassing sign.

"I can safely say alcohol was present, but he may have been the designated driver for all we know at this point," he said.

Baughn said it's time the public gets serious about cracking down on underage drinking.

"Until adults get serious about cracking down on the 'socially acceptable' use of alcohol in our rural culture, the question of whether accidents will take the lives of more of our young people is not if they will occur, but only just a matter of when (they will occur).

"Those underage persons had to get the alcohol from someone, but

they certainly will not reveal their source. Parents, if they are really concerned, should be willing to work together with law enforcement in encouraging cooperation from youth in locating and eliminating the sources of the alcohol," he said.

Baughn said the accident was a result of choices, albeit bad choices.

"This has been happening for years, and as minors, we were doing the same thing. It's part of our culture and until we change things it's ongoing. Will we ever learn that our choices all have consequences, and that bad choices may result in bad consequences?"

"When I see accidents involving alcohol, I always think, 'There, but for the grace of God, go I,'" Baughn said. And, he said his "heartfelt sympathy goes out to the Harris family" at this time of their grief.

The investigation, which is being conducted by the Thomas County Sheriff's office and Kansas Highway Patrol, is ongoing.

Briefly

Chamber luncheon Friday

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly luncheon on Friday at the Colby Country Club. This month's guest speaker is Bryce Baker of Garden City. Baker will be discussing customer service in today's market. In addition, members will need to choose this year's nominating committee to assist in filling board vacancies, said Mary Ann Downing, executive director. All chamber members and guests are encouraged to attend. For questions, call 460-3401.

Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include road department supervisor Clair Schrock with a discussion on selecting a consultant for a project on Country Club Drive and opening asphalt bids; a presentation on the county's emergency medical services from director Kathi Wright and Martin Rinehart; Ken Ptacek on weed-free forage inspections; an update on Northwest Kansas Community Corrections from John Trembley and an update on health insurance and benefits from Randy Dick.

'Sky is the Limit' trip still has openings

There is still space available for the Colorado Springs trip scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 26, said Judy Kleinsorge, children's librarian at Pioneer Memorial Library. The "Sky is the Limit" trip is open to students in grades 6, 7 and 8, who have until Tuesday, Feb. 15 to turn in their application. "It would be great to see a number of youngsters take advantage of this opportunity that will be lots of fun," she said. For questions, stop by the library at 375 W. 4th or call (785) 460-4470.

Fair board to meet

The Thomas County fair board will meet at 8 p.m., Thursday at the 4-H Building on the fairgrounds. The meeting is open to the public.

Library plans book sale Saturday

Pioneer Memorial Library is having its "Lover's Day Book Sale," Saturday from 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. The sale will be held in the basement of the library, 375 W. 4th, Colby. For questions, call the library at 460-4470.

Sorority to hold soup supper Friday

Kappa Upsilon, a local sorority, is sponsoring a soup supper on Friday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Colby Community Building when Colby takes on Quinter in basketball action. The menu will include chili, chicken noodle, and vegetable soups, along with cinnamon rolls, cookies and drinks. The cost is free-will donation with proceeds going to benefit PuddleDuck Pre-School. For questions, call Lana Johnson, 462-3727.

Conservation District reservations due

The Thomas County Conservation District will have its annual meeting and awards banquet on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the 4-H Building. There is no charge to the event; however, reservations must be in no later than Friday, said Lynette Koon, conservation district spokesperson. The agenda includes a meal, which is sponsored by the county banks, election of two district supervisors, presentation of conservation honors, posters and environmental teaching awards. To make a reservation call 462-7482.

Colby
Hoxie
Oakley



50's to hang around

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 20s. West winds 5 to 10 mph.
Friday...Increasing clouds. Highs in the mid 50s. West winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the southwest in the afternoon. **Friday night...**Increasing clouds. Lows around 30. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday...Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Highs in the lower 50s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. **Saturday night...**Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain in the evening. Lows in the lower 30s.
Sunday...Decreasing clouds. Highs in the lower 50s.

The numbers

Wednesday's high, 41
Low this morning, 14
Year ago today, 48 and 15
Records for this date, 77 in 1951 and -13 in 1933
Precipitation for month to date: 0.23
Snowfall for month to date: 3.7 inches
Soil temperature, 33

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

