

High Plains Art Club plans show during August reunion

High Plains Art Club Plans Art Display During Alumni Reunion
Marj Brown, secretary, suggested that the High Plains Art Club might consider having an art show during the school reunion in August.

It was suggested that perhaps they might be able to find a vacant store on Franklin to set up a display and invite out of town alumni to also show some of their work.

Carpenter agreed to see if she

could find a place where the show could be held and later said that Karen O'Neal of Personal Touch Beauty Shop had agreed to let the club use her vacant building next to the beauty shop on Franklin Ave.

Other business at the first summer meeting of the art club was held on June 9 at the South Wind Plaza. The members met at 10 a.m. to work on their individual projects and then many went to lunch together.

President Marlene Carpenter

conducted the business meeting at Southwind Plaza following lunch and Bev Kern, treasurer, said Rita Roberts had called and asked to hold the oil painting workshop at a later date due since her home had been in a flood and she needed to be there for the repairs.

After discussion the members offered Roberts a choice of dates between Sept. 12 and Sept. 25.

With the change in dates, anyone who has not sent in their reserva-

tions to attend this two-day workshop will have a chance to do so.

The price of the workshop conducted by a professional artist will still be \$65. Carpenter said she had received a notice from the Sherman County Economic development group that they would be holding a workshop on "marketing your art" and that anyone who was interested could get that information from her.

Rosie VanDyke was in charge of the program for June and asked the

members to meet at her home since she did not want to bring her paintings to South Wind.

VanDyke discussed Leonardo DaVinci. She chose to emphasize the fact that DaVinci was not only a master artist and sculptor but was also an inventor, architect, and talented in music, geometry, and very interested in natural history.

"Da Vinci also spent a great deal of time studying anatomy," she said. He was one of the first to re-

veal the eye to be a lens and the heart to be a hydraulic pump with the pulse matching the heartbeat.

Da Vinci later invented a suction pump, designed a prefabricated house, rolling mills, a screw-cutting machine, a bulldozer, a spinning machine, a diving bell, a life preserver and the first workable compass as we know it today.

"It was discovered later from Da Vinci's drawings, that he had plans for an airplane much like today's helicopter," Van Dyke said.

After the program, Margaret Denneler, vice president, served refreshments of rhubarb pie, ice tea and coffee.

The July meeting was a brunch and "plein-air" painting in Ruth Hughes back yard, at 1100 E. 8th street Members brought whatever they wanted to do their art work with, such as paint, pencils, etc.

Boom times are back again for many Kansans with oil

SALINA (AP)—Dorothy Lang spent decades making egg noodles to help her farm family pay the bills. Now she's in the oil business, reaping royalties from two wells drilled on her property in the past 2 1/2 years.

"It's so nice to go to bed and know you're making money when that well is going up and down," said Lang, 74. "The next morning, you get a bill in the mail and you can pay it."

She's not alone in her neighborhood near Catherine, nine miles northeast of Hays. From her kitchen window, Lang can see two drilling rigs working around the clock, poking holes in the ground in search of the cherished black goo.

Increasing demand and a shortage of refining capability have caused the world price of crude oil to jump in recent months, hitting a record \$60 a barrel last week before falling back. Kansas crude oil that fetched just \$10 for a 52-gallon barrel in 1997 was worth \$54.50 on July 8.

"Every day's Christmas right now," said John O. Farmer III, owner of an oil and natural gas producing company at Russell that has wells throughout Kansas. He is planning to drill 25 to 30 new wells

"We're having the time of our lives. How long it lasts, who knows, but we're not rat-holing the money. We're putting it in the ground he comedy quartet is hilarious.

John O. Farmer III, owner of oil and natural gas company in Russell

this year.

Others in the oil industry are in an equally festive mood. They're rushing not only to find new sources of oil, but also to bring back into production marginal wells that were shut down when oil had little value.

It costs an average of \$15 a barrel to pump oil, said Tim Carr, head of the energy research section of the Kansas Geological Survey.

"It's worthwhile at 50 to 60 bucks a barrel," he said of firing up low-producing wells.

Most Kansas crude comes from so-called "stripper wells" that yield less than 15 barrels of oil a day, said Danny Biggs, a consultant at Pickrell Oil, an oil producer and driller in Great Bend. The average Kansas oil well pumps less than three barrels a day.

"We can just do a lot more when

the price is right," he said. "That's why everybody's busy."

Farmer mentioned one well that was brought back into production, pumping five barrels of oil and 50 barrels of salt water each day.

At these prices, "that's excellent economics to restore that back to production," Farmer said.

His company's wells are pumping anywhere from two to 75 barrels of oil a day.

Farmer's firm employs 13 full-time people and a contract labor force that can reach up to 100 workers.

"We're having the time of our lives," he said. "How long it lasts, who knows, but we're not rat-holing the money. We're putting it in the ground."

Statewide, 40 to 50 rigs are drilling for oil, said Rex Buchanan, di-

rector for public outreach with the Kansas Geological Survey.

"When oil was cheap, it was in the single digits," he said. "There is no question there is more optimism and more activity out there than there has been for quite a while."

Increased drilling over the past two years has curbed the annual 6 percent decline in Kansas crude oil production. That decline lasted 30 years, Farmer said, but today the industry boasts a slight upward trend in Kansas.

The revival of the Kansas oil industry also is reflected in doubling the state's collection of severance taxes in the past five years. Those taxes, collected at a rate of 4.33 percent of the value of oil at the wellhead, jumped from \$9.1 million in 1999 to \$20 million last year.

"There's just a lot of new wealth created, and that wealth filters down to everybody," Farmer said.

Consider an oil well producing 50 barrels a day. With an oil price of \$50 a barrel, that's \$75,000 worth of Kansas crude oil in a month. A standard one-eighth share for a royalty owner is \$9,375 a month.

"That's a really good well," Farmer said.

Production at such high-yielding new wells typically tapers after a

few months, Farmer said.

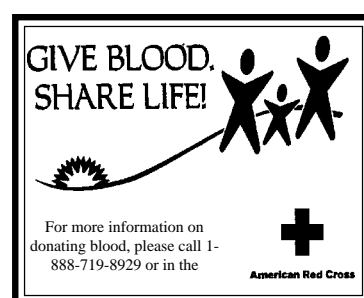
"That period of big income is very short," he said.

Still, if production of that well falls to a typical 15 barrels a day, the revenue generated with \$50-a-barrel oil still is more than \$22,000 a month — meaning a \$2,800-a-month royalty check for the landowner.

Lang, at Catherine, won't say what her royalty checks total. But she is so appreciative of finding them in her mailbox that she sent Farmer a gift from her heart and her past — several sacks of fresh egg noodles.

Lang intends to use some of the extra income to help her four children. She regrets that her husband, Tony, who died in 1996, didn't see oil wells on their farm.

"It has not changed me in any way. I still love people," Lang said. "I sure appreciate the money."



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