

# Family

## Deaths

### Dale M. Leopold

Dale M. Leopold, 90, a retired power plant operator from Colby, died Saturday, May 14, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

He was born April 3, 1921, in Quinter, the son of George J. and Ida A. (Jarboe) Leopold.

During World War II he enlisted in the Army and served in Germany. After his discharge he worked for Central Kansas Power Company in Hoxie and Colby as a plant operator for 41 years.

After retirement, he spent time traveling and fishing. He was a life member of the Colby American Legion, the Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars, the McPherson Squadron Sons of the American Legion and First Baptist Church of Colby.

In 1945, he married Irene Gilbert. Following her death in 2001, he married Barbara Black in 2007.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother and sister and his first wife.

Survivors include his wife Barbara Leopold, of the home; a son, Dr. Jerry Leopold, McPherson; four nieces; seven nephews; two stepdaughters; two stepsons; seven step-grandchildren; and six step-great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 18, 2011, at Harrison Chapel in Colby, with the Rev. Craig Crossman officiating and burial in the Gem Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral chapel.

The family suggests donations to the church or the Child Welfare Foundation of the American Legion, in care of the funeral chapel, Box 634, Colby, Kan., 67701.

### Edwin D. Ficken

Edwin D. Ficken, 79, Colby, died Friday, May 13, 2011, at the Prairie Senior Living Complex.

He was born Jan. 18, 1932, to H. Fred and Meta Ficken in Nuckolls County, Neb. After attending the Aurora District County School and St. Peters Lutheran Church School, he graduated from the Davenport (Neb.) High School in 1950.

He worked for several area farmers and at the Navy Depot in Hastings, Neb., before entering the Navy during the Korean War. From 1952 to 1954, he was stationed at Bainbridge Island, Wash.

On June 27, 1954, he married Donna Beavers of Davenport. After his discharge they returned to the family farm in Nuckolls County, where he farmed until his retirement in 1994, when they moved to Colby. During busy seasons, he returned to the farm to help.

A lifelong member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Davenport, he transferred to Trinity Lutheran Church in Colby in 2008. He served many years on the Davenport Rural Fire Department.

Survivors include his wife, Colby; two sons, Kent (Berta) Ficken, Kirk, Colo.; and Kelly (Pam) Ficken, Davenport; a daughter, Kristie (Loren) Jacobs, Colby; 18 grandchildren and step-grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 19, 2011, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Colby. No visitation. Cremation.

There will also be a memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday at the church in Davenport.

The family suggests memorials to the Prairie Senior Living Complex or the church in Colby.

Kersensbrock Funeral Chapel is in charge of local arrangements.

### High Plains Lions Club

The High Plains Lions held their regular meeting last Monday at the Colby Community College Student Union.

The usual up-beat atmosphere was subdued, as Roger Hale had received a call that Dr. Max Pick-erill had just passed away. He had been a visitor to the club on many occasions. Virgil Jones gave a short tribute to Max as a dedicated teacher. President Justin Burrus offered a short prayer for the Pick-erill family.

The group sang Happy Birthday to Larry Koon. A welcome back was given to Hale who had been absent since Nov. 2010.

Burrus introduced Mary Hurtt for the program. She talked about herself and becoming an American citizen.

Hurtt was born on a small island in the Philippines, the third of nine children. Her parents were farmers and lived in a two-bedroom house with one closet. She met and married her husband Tom while he was in the military, stationed in the Philippines.

Hurtt came to the U.S. on Nov. 26, 1974. She was wearing a strapless dress and shoes with heels.

"Tom never told me that it was going to be cold and there would be 19 inches of snow on the ground. I still have the blanket I got from the airplane to wrap up in to keep warm. I had never seen snow before in my life," she said.

The first eight years in her new country, she lived in WaKeeney and worked at the local hospital. Her first pay check was \$85. She saved her pay and bought a brand-new car for \$3,500. When she first learned to drive she drove through her garage door and wrecked her new car.

In 1976, Hurtt went to Topeka and took her citizenship test to become a United States citizen. She was told about "Lionism" by Melda Moore, joined Lions in 1994 and has been a Lion for 17 years.

President Burrus called for committee reports. The State Lion Convention will be Thursday through Saturday, June 2 to 4, in Lawrence. The 4th of July Hot Dog and Watermelon Feed Committee is working on games and entertainment for the evening, preceding the Kiwanis fireworks. The club will be helping Thomas County Fair Amusement again this year. Relay for Life is planned for Friday, June 17. The club will have their annual cake walk at the event.

Sheryl and Larry Brenn were designated as the club's official voting delegation for the state convention.

Awards were presented by Secretary Sheryl Brenn. Hale was presented with a Lions shirt, Burrus received a Fort Hays Tiger Lions pin and Jones received a Lion statue for his mantle.

# It's corny, but ... it's really popular

Survey after survey shows very clearly that tomatoes are the garden vegetable of choice in all parts of the United States of America. Nearly 95 percent of all the nation's gardeners plant and nurture tomatoes in their backyard gardens. Some are even grown in the front yard, carefully located among the petunias and the marigolds or any other bedding plant. Lots of sunshine, good fertilization and timely additions of water are about the only ingredients necessary to growing a tomato crop.

Do you know what the second most favorite garden vegetable is in America? Actually, it isn't really a vegetable. It's sweet corn! Everyone from youngsters with a few teeth to oldsters with a few teeth simply adore sweet corn. But here's the kicker! Less than half of all backyard gardeners in America actually grow sweet corn themselves. Most gardeners depend on the farmer's market or country friends with a two-acre corn patch to obtain their sweet corn fix. The reason most gardeners give for not growing their own is "I just don't have room for it out there."

Despite a perceived shortage of space, sweet corn will produce well in the backyard, especially when planted in "blocks" instead of rows so that the pollination process is enhanced. Sweet corn is pollinated by the wind and not by bees as are most other garden crops.

But just about everyone loves sweet corn. Do you know anyone who refuses to eat it? I don't either, and we just can't seem to get enough of it during the summer season.

The nice thing about sweet corn is that it just gets better and better. New developments in cross-breeding some of the SE, SU,



**Kay Melia**  
• The Gardener

and Sh2 types has resulted in an almost unbelievably sweet and tender product, without sacrificing true sweet corn flavor. In the forefront of this type of advancement is a trademarked variety of sweet corn named Mirai, (pronounced ME-rye.). It is an altogether different type of sweet corn called "synergistic" and Mirai isn't the only one in this class – just the most well known right now, and the one that carries the most hype, as well as the best distribution.

Mirai sweet corn was developed in 1954 at Twin Gardens Farms near Harvard, Ill., by George Ahrens and his family. He experimented for years on his 200-acre farm where he grew mostly vegetables for the farmer's market and moonlighted as a truck driver. His experimental work has paid off, and today, the Japanese buy most of his available seed. The Japanese actually gave the corn its name which means "the taste of the future."

The Ahrens family has added an adjacent 200 acres to their farm, and just about every acre is planted to Mirai. The crop is picked by hand so as not to injure the tender kernels that might occur with a mechanical picker, and they have developed a large mail-order market.

This will be my third year of planting Marai, and I plant a yellow variety as well as a bi-color variety. It is, indeed, the best sweet corn I have ever grown. In a few years, I'm sure there will be a better one!



Treva Fite as a child



Treva Fite now

## Card shower planned to honor 90th birthday

The family of Treva Fite is having a card shower to celebrate her 90th birthday Saturday. She was born May 21, 1921.

She has three children, Corinia Hilton of Hays, Sheila (Bob) Weis of Spearville; and Carol, Colby. She also has nine grandchildren and several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Send cards to: Treva Fite, 885 W. Eighth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

## Babies

### Jeremiah Lucas Visser

Jeremiah Lucas Visser, son of Justin and Valerie Visser of Riley, was born Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011, at Mercy Regional Hospital in Manhattan. He weighed 6 pounds 15 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Grandparents include Vinton Visser and Karen Ericson, both of Riley, and Joe and Cathy Broeckelman of Selden. Great-grandparents are Lorene Visser of Leonardville, Henry and Doris Ericson of Fort Scott, Emelyn Broeckelman of Oakley, and Gerald and Arvilla Juenemann of Selden.



Jeremiah V.

## Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

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(L-R) A. Nicole Spray, ARNP; Anne O'Dea, MD; Linda Ruder; Michelle Beyer

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