

Town's oldest man born in a box car

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Born in a box car and uncertain about his name, Brewster's oldest man has some interesting stories to share with anyone who will listen.

Roy Willard Moore, 92, loves talking about his life and is proud of the fact he is currently the oldest man in Brewster.

"I was born in Edson in 1914," Moore said. "I was born in a box car because my dad was a depot agent and the depot had burned down and they put two box cars end to end. One was for the depot and one was for the agent to live in and that's why I was born in a box car."

Moore and his wife, Maxine, who resides at Colby Care Center in Colby, have been married for 65 years. They married Sept. 3, 1942, in Oberlin.

On the way to visit Maxine's grandparents in Aurora, Neb., the couple decided the time was right to get married.

"We were going to get married in Norton, but the bridge washed out and we had to go through Oberlin," he said. "When we saw the sign that the bridge had washed out we thought since we didn't know anybody in Norton we'd just get married in Oberlin," Roy said.

After arriving in Oberlin, Moore said he looked for someone to marry Maxine and him. "We looked around and tried to find a preacher," he said.

"We found a church, but didn't see a parsonage, but then saw a guy by a house and I walked up to him and asked if he was a preacher and he said he was a Presbyterian preacher. He said, 'Bring the little lady right on in here.'"

Moments later they were married, later to become parents of a son and daughter, as well as three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

"The preacher was tickled to death with the \$3 dollars I gave him," he joked. "In them days you could get three pounds of hamburger for a quarter and in them days preachers didn't get a lot of money."

"A box of Post Toasties for a dime and for \$3 he could live a whole week."

Moore said upon returning from their honeymoon in Colorado he opened mail stating he had been called to the war.

He said he thought at age 28 he was too old to serve and thought he would be sent home after reporting to the training center.

"They did," he said. "Four years later they sent me back."

When he entered the Army Moore learned his true identity.

"I didn't know I had a first name until I went to the Army," he said. "I told the guy he made a mistake because Roy Moore is my dad's name, but I am Willard Moore. He told me, 'Your dad is not in the Army and remember your name is Roy W. Moore or you are going to be in a lot of trouble.'"

Moore said his dad was Roy E. Moore, whereas he is Roy W. Moore.

"I can go in the bank in Englewood and people say 'Hi Roy,' but I can go out on the street here and

people say 'Hi Willard.' I'm used to it."

A mechanic by trade, Moore was a mechanic in Brewster, as well as Englewood, Colo., and in the Army.

He served as a mechanic and as a diesel truck driver for the 416th Ordinance Evacuation Company, traveling throughout Germany, France, Belgium and Holland from 1942 until discharged Jan. 8, 1946.

Retired for 31 years, Moore said the most impressive aspect to his life has been the creation of calculators and cell phones.

He said calculators have come in handy because he quit high school before graduating. Cell phones amaze Moore because they are portable and help people communicate.

"It surprises me that everybody can talk so much and not get mixed up on these cell phones," Moore said. "I think that's the most amazing thing."

Moore said living in Brewster is nice because he knows everybody. "My hobby is knowing everybody," he said.

"I can't remember their names half the time, but I still know them."

For 15 years, Moore served as vice president of the Brewster Senior Center board, having stepped down when his eyesight deteriorated and now serves as a board member without holding an office.

No longer holder of a driver's license, Moore makes his way around Brewster on a golf cart. He said everyone watches out for him and makes sure he's OK.

"I appreciate the senior center," Moore said. "Since my wife's been in the center in Colby, the senior center has kept me from going bats."

Besides knowing lots of folks, Moore said another hobby is making pies for senior center potluck dinners.

Moore said his wife taught him how to cook and she used to make pies for gatherings. He has stepped up to fill her position doing it.

"I thought it would be nice to keep on making pies," Moore said. "This is Tuesday today, and tomorrow, on Wednesday will be potluck and everybody brings something, so I'll bring a pie."



Moore

New storm sewer line



Sections of the new storm sewer on the south side of 17th Street were being put in place on Monday as the construction project moved ahead. The crews from Midland, a sub-contractor of Sporer Land Development, were moving quickly to get the storm sewer installed. The cone zone has 17th down to one-way traffic from Cherry to Broadway, and the project will go all the way to Main. The project is being paid for by the special one-cent sales tax that went into effect in July. The city project on Caldwell is ready to start, and more cone zones will appear as work progresses.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

County sends Senate at-large election wording

AT-LARGE, from Page 1

glad the county had drafted the election language to get the bill moving.

The amendment will include language detailing the qualifications, filing deadlines and procedures for the primary and general elections.

Rumpel said the commissioners will continue to be elected as Democrat or Republican, and allows for independent candidates in the general election process.

"The election procedure is the same as it has been for county commissioners," Rumpel said. "The only difference is there will not be any districts and all of the seats will be voted on at-large."

Rumpel said if the bill is passed and becomes law the citizens will

vote on the question in the general election next year.

"I told Ostmeier the commissioners wanted to get the bill through the legislature this year," Rumpel said. "That way there is time to educate the voters about the options, and not have to go through the same process next year."

matters of record

Goodland Police
The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

March 2 — 9:43 p.m., 811 Eustis, report of a juvenile runaway. Case referred to county attorney.

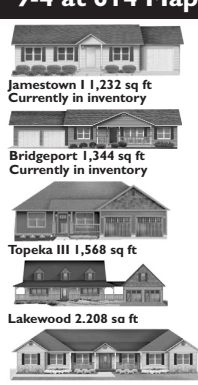
March 3 — 2:04 a.m., 1602 Main, battery reported against Ronald Clark.
5:05 p.m., 2325 Enterprise,

arrested Kevin Lamar Green for driving while suspended and no proof of insurance. Case referred to county attorney.

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