

Museum displays area railroad history

By Sharon Corcoran

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If you want to see a train wreck, take a walk through railroad history in Goodland or look for your ancestors in historic pictures, stop by see the new photography exhibit at Goodland's High Plains Museum.

The show includes 135 pictures from the 1800s through the 1970s, said Glenda Parks, registrar at the museum, who picked the photos from the Parker Collection and arranged the exhibit.

The Rock Island Railroad came through here in the 1880s, Parks said, and gave Goodland its start. Without the railroad, Goodland would only have farms, she said; there wasn't any industry.

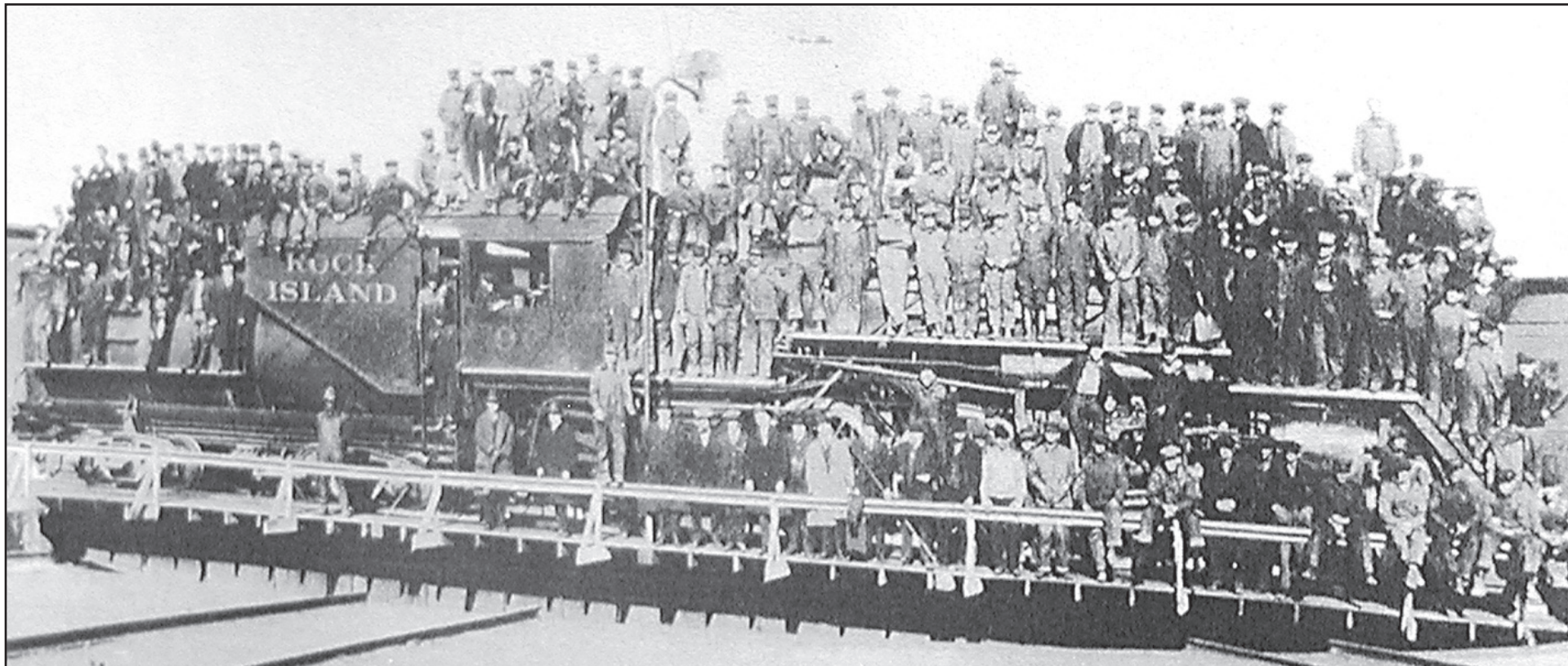
The photos were donated to the museum by the Marion and Betty Parker family. Mr. Parker worked for the Rock Island as a fireman, an engineer and a road foreman of engines and served six years as Kansas legislative representative for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers before retiring in 1973. He was born in 1908 at Colorado Springs and moved with his family to Goodland in 1914. He graduated from Sherman Community High School in 1926, married his high-school sweetheart in 1929 and died in January 2002.

He took a lot of the pictures, Parks said, and kept information on a lot of things that went on in Goodland. He was referred to as the historian for the area, said Linda Holton, museum curator, and his wife had a photography shop.

The exhibit includes photos of a Brinkley engine from the 1860s, the Rock Island "Rocket" streamliner, the rail yards and coal chutes, derailments, snow storms and the first Goodland depot.

Photos of the yards include the turntable, used to turn an engine around to go the other direction (one of the few features that still exists), pictures of many men who worked for the Rock Island, a picture of President Taft giving a speech in Goodland on a campaign stop Sept. 21, 1909, even a train prepared to take the football team to Smith Center for a game. One picture shows automobiles being shipped by train about 1959.

The first depot, built in the 1800s,



Photos on display at the High Plains Museum show the Rock Island Railroad's role in Goodland's growth and in providing employment for many men. Shop men and supervisors (above) posed on Engine 966 at the roundhouse while it was on the turntable. Rock Island crews (right) repaired the train tracks after a derailment in 1957.

Photos from the Parker Collection.

was a tremendous building with ballrooms, Parks said; it burned in 1909.

Photos show men on a hand-powered "push car" with a pump handle on each side used to propel the car, the Rock Island shopmen and supervisors posing on Engine 966, men working on the tracks after a derailment and Dick Rasure with his truck picking up a load of lumber from the rail yard for Rasure Lumber.

Some of the people in the pictures are unknown, Parks said, but families may be able to identify them.

Parks said she enjoyed putting the exhibit together.

"I grew up here and lived near the railroad," she said. "It was interesting to me. It took awhile to get it



arranged with the dates and events, but it was worth it."

The exhibit shows the importance

of the railroad to Goodland, she said. People shipped cattle and sheep on trains, and the dairy shipped cream

and butter. There were even three brick factories in Goodland at one time which shipped by rail.

That's why every town wanted the railroad, Parks said; they knew a town would grow if it had a rail line.

Private person at home in public job as county register of deeds

By Sharon Corcoran

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She describes herself as a "jack of all trades" and a very private person, but she seems to have found her home in a public job.



Hoyt

Billie R. Hoyt, Sherman County register of deeds since the beginning of the year, was a deputy in the office for four years under Carol Armstrong. Hoyt said she likes the job but doesn't really have a favorite aspect.

"I like everything about it," she said.

The register of deeds records all land transactions in the county and has files dating back to before Sherman was a county. Copies of government patents for homestead and timber claims are still on file, and the office even has some originals that were never picked up.

The records help settle disputes

over land ownership and boundaries, contain some of the the history of the county and information on the genealogy of families that settled here.

Besides real estate transactions, the office keeps track of oil and gas leases, mortgage assignments, even military discharges.

The register has been married 17 years to Craig Hoyt, a life-long Sherman County resident, and has a son, Dan Dewey of Wamego, who works for Kansas Farm Bureau in Manhattan.

Before marrying Hoyt, she said, she lived in Rawlins County, where she worked for the road and bridge

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

department.

"I ran a road grader for 4 1/2 years," she said. "That was an experience."

Hoyt said she drove a school bus and worked part time for the Brewster schools and then worked part time at the Sherman County courthouse doing "odds and ends."

She helped out in the county clerk's office, she said, cleaning the courthouse basement and helped William McKnight with maintenance. Then she started helping out

in the register of deeds office. Armstrong was the register and Phyllis Long the deputy, and when Long had to leave due to health problems, Hoyt stepped into her job.

"I have done lots of different things," Hoyt said, "whatever I have to do to earn a living."

She graduated from Ell-Saline High School in Brookville and Colby Community College with a general degree, but took animal science classes while there.

When asked her age, Hoyt said

that's personal.

"I don't think that needs to be in the paper," she said.

Hoyt said her goal is to keep the office going as it is.

"It's running smooth right now," she said. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Her position will be up for reelection in November, and she said she definitely plans to run. If there is another candidate for the Republican Party, there will be a primary in August to determine who will be on the ballot.

Hoyt credits Armstrong, who retired after 13 years as the register on Dec. 31, with making the job a good experience and the transition easy. Armstrong was the deputy for 11 years before that.

"Carol was a wonderful teacher, had lots of patience," Hoyt said. "She was very good to work for and to learn from."

Hoyt said she is still learning, and that is one thing she likes about the job. You learn something new every day, she said.

Invitation to Bid

2007 CFP Kitchen Modernizations at the Family Site for the Goodland Housing Authority

Bid date:..... **March 13th, 2008**
Bid time:..... 1:00 PM Mountain Time (MST)
Bid place:..... Goodland Housing Authority
 515 E. 5th Street
 Goodland, KS 67735
Pre-Bid Meeting (attendance mandatory)
Date:..... **March 5th, 2008**
Time:..... 9:00 AM MST
Place:..... GHA Offices in Sparks Towers

The Goodland Housing Authority will receive sealed bids for Kitchen Modernization Work referenced above. The work includes **removal and replacement of kitchen cabinets, plumbing fixtures, electrical fixtures**, and other items as indicated at the Family Site that is located at the corner of 4th and Grand Street. Please note that all bidders shall attend the Pre-Bid Meeting and shall verify that they have inspected the existing site conditions prior to submitting their bid.

For all construction and equipment contracts over \$25,000, the bidder shall be required to submit a negotiable bid guarantee not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid.

For information concerning the proposed work, contact Richard Zingre' at Zingre and Associates, P.A. 1019 Scott Ave., Fort Scott, KS 66701, (620) 223-6030. Plans and specifications are available as follows: To receive a printed set of plans and specs, send a check for \$35.00 made out to Zingre and Associates, P.A., to the office of Zingre' and Associates. This is a non-refundable purchase. Electronic versions of the plans and specs are available by e-mail for free.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive irregularity in bidding. The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bid if reasonable, and if it is in the interest of the Goodland Housing Authority to accept it.

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CONTRACT MOWER WANTED

The City of Goodland is accepting bids for contract mowing services for the 2008 season. Interested individuals must be at least 18 years of age and carry a minimum of \$100,000 in liability insurance. The individual must be able to work on an "as needed" basis with the City when contracted to mow specific properties. Bid Specifications can be picked up at City Hall at 204 West 11th Street. Please submit your bid to the Planning Director/Building Official's Office at City Hall by March 12, 2008 at 10:00 AM. Bids should be based on an hourly rate. Bids will be opened on March 12, 2008 at 11:00 AM. Bid award will take place at the following Commission Meeting, March 17, 2008. The City of Goodland is an E.O.E.