

Abilene restaurant scene of presidential paddling

By Ron Wilson

Director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University

"Paddled a President." How'd you like to have that on your resume? Today we'll learn about a historic Kansas restaurant founded by a remarkable woman who, among other things, gave the President of the United States a swat on his bottom with a wooden paddle. And it didn't happen when he was just a kid, it happened when he was 75 years old!

Now another generation of a restaurant family is maintaining and enhancing the traditions that this remarkable woman began.

Todd and Tammy Kuntz are the owners of Mr. K's Farmhouse Restaurant near Abilene. The restaurant was originally founded as Lena's.

Miss Lena Benson grew up at Abilene and considered herself a tomboy. On a trip to Kansas City she saw a fortune teller who said

she should be selling foodstuffs to the public. She didn't want to be in a kitchen, but eventually entered the restaurant business.

Her first restaurant consisted of two tables, four chairs, and a counter with six stools. Lena served fried chicken, potato salad, and pork sandwiches at 15 cents each. Wow.

One day she was tarring a roof on one of her buildings and her hair caught fire. She was trapped in the building. According to legend, she feared all was lost but looked out a window, saw a neighboring farmhouse on a hill, and was convinced that it was her destiny. She dove out the window and saved herself.

She bought that farmhouse and opened a restaurant there in 1939. It was known as Lena's. Lena expanded the restaurant and the business through the years. One of her traditions was that guests who came to the restaurant on their birthday would receive a swat from a wood paddle.

Many guests received a paddling

through the years, but in 1963, Lena received a visit from Abilene's favorite son, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Ike had just finished his last term as President. He ate at Lena's around his birthday - but she didn't paddle him. When the regulars heard about this break with tradition, they let Lena know. And when Ike came back in 1965, Lena presented him a surprise birthday cake - and then proceeded to give him a swat on his keister.

Apparently the President was very good natured about all this and autographed the paddle. Would the Secret Service let someone get away with that today?

Anyway, Lena's was quite a landmark through the decades. In 1974, she closed the restaurant and retired, living there for another 20 years.

In 1994, a couple named Ed and June Kuntz were out for a drive near Abilene when they drove by Lena's house and spotted a "for sale" sign there. Ed and June already owned restaurants in Abilene and they saw

the opportunity to expand. They bought Lena's place, shortly before she passed away. They remodeled, expanded and opened the place as Mr. K's Farmhouse Restaurant in 1995.

Now their son Todd and his wife Tammy own and operate Mr. K's Farmhouse Restaurant. They have skillfully maintained Lena's traditions, such as authentic pan fried chicken, great salad dressings, delicious steaks, homemade pies and - oh yeah - birthday paddlings. In fact, one room of the restaurant is known as the Eisenhower Room. It includes photos and paintings of the Eisenhowers plus chairs where Ike and Mamie sat and a paddle which Mamie autographed.

The building is a genuine farmhouse. It has a down-home feel. For example, the restaurant sells cookbooks from churches in nearby

rural communities such as Enterprise, population 825 people. Now, that's rural.

Thanks to the Kuntz family, Mr. K's Farmhouse Restaurant has recaptured the wonderful history and atmosphere of this historic eating place. For more information, go to www.mrksfarmhouse.com.

"Paddled a President." Imagine that on your resume. Today we've learned about a remarkable Kansas

woman who did paddle a President. More importantly, she built an excellent restaurant and supported her community. We commend Todd and Tammy Kuntz for making a difference by maintaining Lena's tradition of good food and great service in a rural setting.

Without entrepreneurs like these, rural Kansas would be up a creek without a paddle.

public notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of JACK KAMPER, Deceased

No. 10 PR 02
Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on the 14th day of September, 2010, a Petition for Final Settlement was filed in this Court by Sally Koepke, as Administrator of the Estate of Jack Kamper, praying for a final settlement of the estate, approval of his acts, proceedings and accounts as administrator, allowance for attorneys' fees and expenses, and for determination of the heirs entitled to the estate.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 8th day of October, 2010, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., on said day, in said Court, in the City of Goodland, in Sherman County, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course and upon said petition.

Sally Koepke,
Petitioner

VIGNERY & MASON L.L.C.
214 E. 10th, P.O. Box 767
Goodland, Kansas 67735

Telephone: 785-890-6588
Attorneys for Petitioner
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Urgent news for people who had HIP REPLACEMENT

Several hip replacement systems used since 2003, including ones made by DePuy and Zimmer, have been recalled or had sales suspended due to an increased need for a second hip replacement. If you had or need a second hip replacement or are having unexpected hip problems, call us now for a free consultation at 1-800-THE-EAGLE (toll-free). No fees or costs until your case settles. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.

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Bidding starts to close Wed., Sept. 29 at 12 P.M.
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Combine: CAT Lexion 480 RWA **Cotton Stripper:** JD 7450 RWA **Hay Equipment:** Mac Don 9300 Swather; 16 ft Swather Head; (2) Challenger LB44 4x4 Larger Square Baler; Challenger BA4 Large Square Bale Accumulator **Planting Equipment:** White 8500 Centrill Fill System 16R30 Planter; JD 1900 Air Drill **Tillage Equipment:** Sunflower 4510 14ft Disk Chisel and more w/photos, descriptions, and bidding online

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Item #3143
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Are you or someone you know caring for an aging family member or friend?

A caregiver's greatest challenge is knowing what resources are available locally and how to find them.

If you have caregiving questions, call your Kansas Area Agency on Aging.

1-866-457-2364 or visit www.k4a.org

More Options Saturday Clinics:

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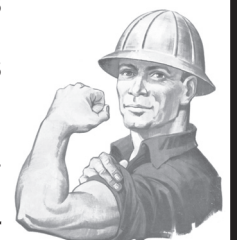
Goodland Family Health Center
106 Willow Rd.
(785) 890-6075

City Wide Clean Up October 4th-October 8th, 2010

Residents may place any unwanted items in alleys and front yards during this week only. City Crews will be picking up any discarded items throughout the week. **Any items that residents DO NOT wish to be discarded need to be removed from these locations prior to the CITY WIDE CLEAN UP.**

Items such as tree limbs, leaves, grass clippings, furniture, appliances, metal, plastics, tires, etc. need to be separated out to allow faster and more efficient pickup by City crews. There is no need to phone in your pickup, just place the items in the designated places during that week.

The City Commission's goal is to beautify the City and with your help and cooperation, we can obtain that goal!



RICHARDSON'S HOMESTEAD REALTY AND AUCTION

EQUIPMENT AUCTION

For the North Fork Ranch

Monday Sept. 27, Starting at 10:30 MST

At the ranch located 7 miles south of Goodland KS on Hwy. 27 to road 57, then 2 miles west to road 17, then 2 miles south to road 55, then 1/2 mile west. Signs will be posted.

NOTE: The ranch has been sold so this is a complete liquidation of the equipment used in the operation. VERY FEW SMALL ITEMS SO PLEASE BE ON TIME!

TRACTOR, TRUCKS, VEHICLES: 2007 NH-TL 100A - FWA, 3pt, loader, joystick, only 2000 hrs.; 1985 Ford TW35 - FWA, 18.4 x 38 duals, 3pt, 3 hyds, GB 870 loader with grapple fork, 6400 hrs, new clutch; 1960 Chevy C-60, V-8, 4&2 trans, 15' box & hoist; 2004 Ram 2500 crew cab SLT, 4x4, Cummins diesel, 6sp, flatbed, 123k miles; 2001 Ram 2500 extended cab SLT, 4x4, Cummins diesel, flatbed, 167k miles. **TRAILERS & EQUIPMENT:** WW 6x24 GN stock trailer, new floor; Flying J 5x16 covered top stock trailer, rubber floor; Sundowner 3 horse slant trailer; PJ 30' GN FB trailer W/fold down ramps, tandem duals, 14ply tires; NH - BB960 3x4 square baler, 1000 pto, monitor, under 10,000 bales; NH - 1043 self propelled stack wagon; NH - 1475 - 2300 series Haybine 18' swing swather; NH - 320 small square baler; Hay-buster - H1000 hay grinder, 3&4" screens, elect. governor; JD 510 round baler, hyd tie, no monitor; Tonutti 12 wheel rake; 3 JD 9300 - 8x12" hoe drills; 2 JD 8x12 hoe drill; FK 5x5 sweep W/old style pickers; Brown 12' box blade; Pronghorn sprinkler track closure; 3pt hay rake; JD 112 feed wagon - needs floor chain; GN trailer W/1000 gal water tank; BP trailer W/1300 gal water tank **HAY:** 1,000 small square bales 2010 grass hay, stacked inside. **SHOP & MISC.:** 1993 Yamaha Big Bear 400 - 4 wheeler, 4x4; Gantz 10' 3 pt, 3 way rear blade; Danuser 3pt post hole digger, 9" bit; Howse 7' 3pt mower; Windpower 20kw pto generator, on trailer; Wire roller mounted on FB trailer; 12 metal feed bunks; 8 inverted tractor tire feed bunks; Some shop & Hand tools; 30 New 6' x 5" fence posts; Several cattle panels

Complete pictures on www.goodlandhomestead.com

For more information contact Terry Richardson Broker/Auctioneer at Homestead Realty & Auction, 1023 Main, Goodland, KS. 67735 785-899-8094 or 800-974-2426

RICHARDSON'S HOMESTEAD REALTY AND AUCTION
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