

Railroad got much attention from newspapers

The railroad, which was a major component to the settling of western Kansas, was covered quite extensively in the newspapers. Farmers from the east often loaded implements, livestock and family onto rail cars and headed west. In the same token, the railroads were politically powerful and progressive.

The Goodland News was another county newspaper owned by Herbert Stewart and published on Thursdays. On March 1, 1906, the *News* printed this editorial concerned with the practice of free rail passes being issued to elected Kansas officials which hinted bribery!

THE ENORMITY OF THE FREE PASS

From Topeka Capital.

Politicians smile at the idea that the free pass influences members of the legislature, but Bill Hackney, who has served several times in the house, makes a statement that will tend to shake popular belief in the politicians' view of it: "Think of it," he says, "one member of the last legislature told me that he had asked for and received and distributed among his friends last winter, passes covering more than 200,000 miles, and in explanation of his opposition to a bill adversely affecting



marcia smith

• from the vault

the railroads, he said that he had received so many favors from them that it would look mean and contemptible for him to refuse them a favor now. It is a species of bribery as vicious as contemptible and ought to be condemned by law."

If one member of the legislature applied for and got 200,000 miles of free transportation, how many thousand miles at \$30 a thousand did 165 members get? Probably the share of the man referred to by Representative Hackney was disproportionate to the whole membership; but if he got only what others got, then the transportation distributed in a single session of the Kansas legislature amounted to the aggregate of thirty-three million miles, or in round figures one million dollars.

But 200,000 miles to one member at \$30 a thousand was worth in money \$6,000. He used it among his friends at home, thereby bolster-

ing himself up with his constituents, and this is the customary use to which free transportation is put by members.

It strengthens them at home to dole out these favors; they make themselves solid for renomination or for some other office, and they thereby thrive and prosper in politics, and are necessarily grateful to the railroad.

Bill Hackney has been much around legislatures and speaks what he knows when he says that the free pass system "is a species of bribery as vicious as contemptible and ought to be condemned by law."

The member who told him he had received 200,000 miles also said that it would be mean not to return the favor, and so served the railroads in the legislature?

If a single member received \$6,000 worth of transportation, how much was issued altogether in the last legislature? Is it too much to say that the distribution of passes was equivalent to \$500,000?

At the same time, the union rep-

resenting railroad workers, including a Goodland man, had met in Chicago for negotiations with the Rock Island representatives. Salaries of various railroaders in 1906 was included.

TRAINMEN ARE SATISFIED Matters Were Amicably Adjusted at Recent Chicago Meeting

Conductor L.J. Laufman, who was in Chicago for several weeks, representing Goodland lodge No. 327, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, at the recent meeting there of the brakemen and conductors with the Rock Island officials, returned home Saturday and said that the matters in question were amicably settled with the company.

No demands were made by the men for a change in the scale of wages. There were some changes in rules and schedules whereby the men under the present wage scale will get what is practically an increase in pay.

The schedule of the Colorado division: the minimum of the mileage of passenger men was cut down from 6510 to 6000. Passenger brakemen will receive the same salary as formerly, \$67.20, but according to the new change, freight brakemen will receive \$2.65 per

hundred miles, the former schedule being \$2.50. Conductors' pay was increased from \$3.74 to \$3.86.

Speaking in a general way of the railroad, D.E. Cain, general manager of the Rock Island, said after the conference that the road was never in better shape, with but one exception, the shortage of freight cars.

At the same time, the Union Pacific was working on the use of gasoline operated rail cars to move passengers in more populated areas of Kansas City and Topeka. *The Goodland Republic* reported this modern development.

MOTOR CARS ARE SUCCESS Union Pacific to Operate Service

"The gasoline motor rail car has taken the place of our daily train between Leavenworth and Lawrence," said J.B. Frawley, passenger agent for the Union Pacific. "Within a year, motor cars will be put on between Kansas City and Topeka. A speed of from 50 to 60 miles an hour can be made with ease.

The object ...will be to offer a frequent service which will enable railroads to compete with an electric line. The motor car will carry 56

passengers and haul a trailer for mail and baggage.

"A number of these cars are now being manufactured...and will replace all the trains which run over branch lines or between local points.... The motor rail car is cigar shaped and supplied with dynamos and is able to stop quickly and attain a high rate of speed. Cost of operation is much less. Ten cars are now under construction. The cost of building a car is about \$4,000."

The newspaper also carried a weekly news column specifically for local railroad activities. Some items were quite personal.

Brakeman H.V. Felt, whose family reside in Seneca, left about a week ago to bring his folks here. He has two small children, the youngest babe nine months old, which sickened and died last Friday and was buried Sunday at Seneca. Harry Felt is a son of ex-Lieutenant Governor A.J. Felt. (This was followed up by the next entry.)

Brakeman Harry Felt, accompanied by Mrs. Felt and child, arrived in Goodland on No. 5 Thursday. They will occupy a house in Coffee mill row. (This refers to the shape of the house resembling a coffee grinder.)

City to service own cars and pickups; lift and tools to be bought

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Servicing the city cars and pickups was an idea that came up during the budget workshop, and Monday the city commission approved purchasing a lift and tools to make it a reality.

Rich Simon, public works manager, told the commission he had arranged for Dale Davis to begin servicing the city cars and trucks, but needed to purchase a lift and tools for him to work with.

Simon said he had bids from three places for the lift and for airlines and a jack on the lift. He said the best price for this was about \$7,700.

For the tools, he said he got prices from several places and that was about \$1,090 total.

"The total cost is about \$8,800," Simon said. "I talked to the other departments to see if we have the money. I think we can find it with their help, and cut back on some of

the tools at first."

Simon said he was asking the commission for permission to make the purchases.

Mayor Rick Billinger said he had talked to Simon, and had him check on a possible source for a used lift.

Simon said he had checked, and the lift had been sold.

Commissioner Josh Dechant asked if the price was delivered and installed.

Simon said it was the price for delivery, but the city would do the installation and make sure that it is set up right.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked what type of vehicles would work with the lift.

Simon said it would handle a total of about 12,000 pounds and 6,000 pounds on the front end with the jack.

"It won't lift the big trucks," Simon said, "but it will handle all the small vehicles."

Billinger said this is mainly for cars and pickups.

Charlie Bandel of the city electric department said his people handled the maintenance of their equipment.

Dechant asked if the prices were similar.

Simon said they were all within \$1,000 to \$1,200.

"I could shave it a bit more going out of town," Simon said, "but we want to stay in town."

"I agree we want to stay in town," Billinger said. "On oil and filters I suggest you take turns. Everyone of them pays taxes. I think it is important to that everyone gets a chance."

Daniels said he wondered what the city spends now by sending this work out.

Chief Ray Smee said the police spend about \$100 a month on oil changes. He said they change the oil in the patrol cars every 5,000 miles.

Billinger asked if all the commissioners concurred with the plan. All

of them said yes they thought it was a good idea.

Simon brought up the sprinklers for Steever Water Park, which was an item talked about during the budget session.

"I think we can put the sprinkler in for about \$6,500," Simon said, "except for the ones that are next to the power plant. That is with the city doing most of the work."

Dechant said he remembered thinking it would cost \$10,000 when they talked about doing that. "Doing it for \$6,500 sounds good to me," Dechant said.

Daniels said the money comes from the state and thought that should be growing.

City Clerk Mary Volk said there was about \$30,000 available.

Billinger asked the commission-

ers if they were OK with the sprinkler plan. The commissioners all agreed to have the city crew install the sprinklers.

In other business the commissioners:

- Agreed to have a city bowling team for the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program on April 1. Billinger said he thought last year they got city employees to bowl and we paid for them. City Manager Wayne Hill handed the envelope to Volk who said each team member is encouraged to raise \$100 in pledges.

- Heard a report from Hill that he had received the proposed power contract from Sunflower Electric, but that he needs to review it with Rod Blake, power plant superintendent, and the city attorney. He reported the new engine is working, and the power plant

is ready to go solo this week when the Sunflower plant at Holcomb shuts down for an overhaul.

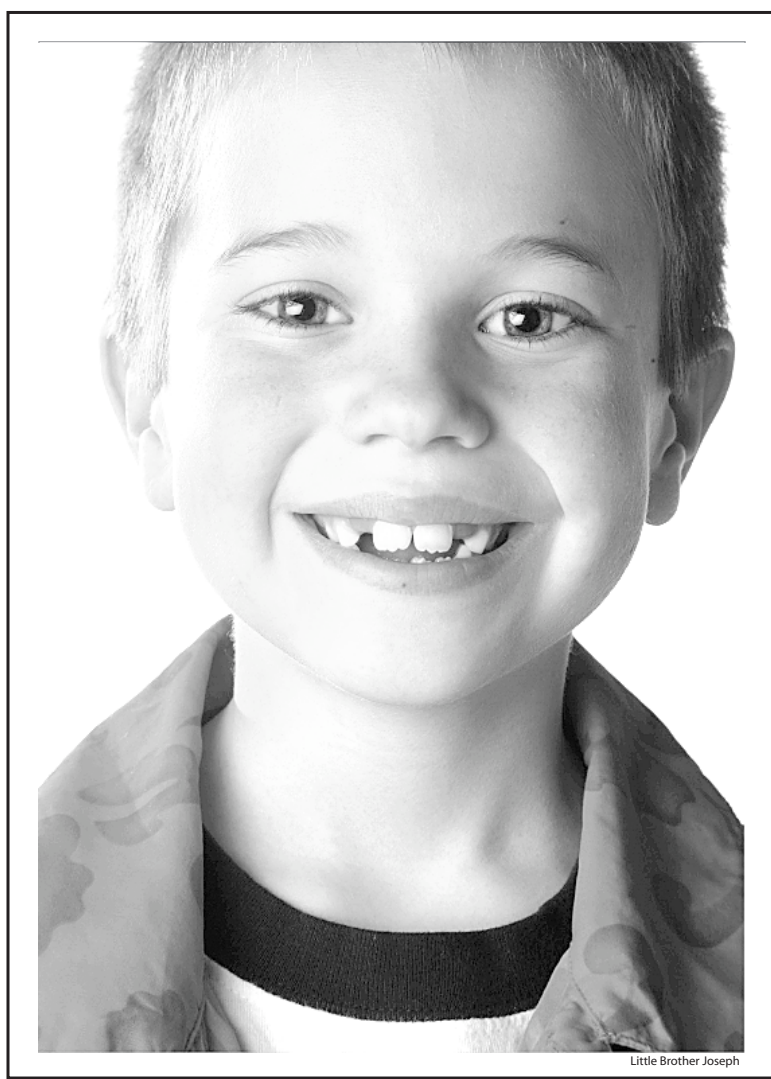
- Received an invitation to the Eagle Scout Court of Honor at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church for Matt Rohr. Billinger said Rohr is the young man who put up the flagpole at Pioneer Park. Bandel said they had to take the flag down again to get it repaired.

- Were reminded of the public forum on the sales tax to be held at 7 p.m. on Monday at Howard Johnson's Hotel. "We want a lot of people there," Hill said. Volk's class from Leadership Sherman County is sponsoring the public forum.

The next city commission meeting will be 5 p.m. on Monday, March 20.

YOU +  = 

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sherman, Wallace, and Cheyenne Counties



Little Brother Joseph

Bowl For Kids' Sake 2006 Saturday, April 1st


Goodland Bowladium Lanes • 509 Caldwell Avenue
Teams: 1 Team Captain + 3 other members

Starts at 11am

First National Bank
Wal-Mart
102.5 KKCI KLOE 730
KWGB 97.9
Bowladium Lanes
S&T Communications
Aquila

Dan Brenner Ford
Goodland Coca-Cola
Western Times
Mt Sunflower Bed & Breakfast
Sunflower Telephone Co.
Garvey Texas Foundation, Inc
Goodland Star - News

**BBBS of Sherman, Wallace & Cheyenne
(785) 890-3665 (785) 852-5301
Team Deadline: March 17, 2006**



MORE AMERICAN RENEWABLE FUEL PER BUSHEL

GET YIELD

in Your Field

and Your Ethanol Plant

E Caruso LLC wants your Processor Preferred® High Fermentable Corn. It has been proven to deliver more ethanol - which means more profit potential for the plant and you.

Grow the solution that can help reduce our dependence on foreign oil and supports the local economy - high-ethanol-producing Processor Preferred High Fermentable Corn. Talk to your seed dealer today, or call 1-877-GROW-HFC.
(1-877-476-9432)

Processor
Preferred.

E Caruso LLC

Randy Whitmore
1202 Main
Goodland, KS 67735
785-890-9463

Processor Preferred® is a registered trademark of Monsanto Technology LLC.
[242997 v]h E Caruso 2/06]
©2006 Monsanto Company.