



Federal Court of Appeals Judge Deanell Tacha talks about Kansas' history at the Kansas Day Celebration in Jennings Sunday afternoon. Judge Tacha said Jan. 29 is the 150th anniversary of Kansas becoming a territory.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Judge speaks about 150th anniversary

By VERONICA MONIER

The birthday celebration began early in Jennings as the Czech Memorial Museum and the Heritage Associates of Jennings held a Kansas Day Celebration Sunday afternoon.

Federal Appellate Judge Deanell Reece Tacha, who was the guest speaker, said that Jan. 29 was not only the 150th anniversary for Kansas, but was the birthday of Kansas as a territory.

She said the Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial Commission, which she chairs, has set into place several projects to commemorate the event. For the first and probably last time in Kansas history, the Kansas/Nebraska Act of 1854 will leave Washington's archives to be on display in Topeka for three

months.

The committee has also implemented programs which will hopefully last through future generations, she said. In April, the commission will be giving away disease and drought resistant trees to schools and other organizations, and will be selling them at \$5 apiece to all those who want them. They will also be trying out a new middle school curriculum on Kansas history, which will include an interactive DVD on Kansas history which will hopefully give a special feeling of pride and add an extra dimension of understanding about the development of Kansas and its people.

Judge Tacha said that Kansas' history was extremely recent in the great scheme of things. Kansas

was the cauldron in which the civil war was born. She said after the Kansas/Nebraska Act was passed, Kansas was called Bleeding Kansas because of the many skirmishes fought between those people who were against slavery and those who were for it.

"Had the anti-slavery people not prevailed," she said, "we would be a very different state and country today. Kansas has a proud history, but also a sad history because of all of the Native Americans who were displaced so our ancestors could own their land. Our history gives us the opportunity to look at our future and make it better."

She said the commission wanted people to focus on the land and people, and the future of everyone and not just the individual.

"Kansans need to be proud of who they are and where they came from," she said.

Also during the celebration, children from the grade school performed and sophomore Elise Kinser read a poem written by her grandmother.

Lila Jennings gave a progress report on the Czech Memorial Museum. She said the walkway was complete and their projects — cemetery books and area newspapers going back to the late 1800s — were going well.

"I'm really proud of our community and all of the help that has been given to us to get this museum going," she said.

She thanked everyone for their time and donations.

Area school board amends dress code

By KRISTEN BRANDS

The Northern Valley School Board didn't skirt the issue when it came to discussing new dress code policies during their monthly meeting held on Jan. 17.

The members voted to amend the dress code to say that "skirts shall be as long as the longest fingertip when hands are hanging normally at sides," in the school's handbook. The new policy will become effective immediately, and will be enforced during school hours and any other time an individual is representing the school.

Principal Dwight Vallin announced the winners of the spelling bee. They were: first place Stanton Nelson, second place Kelsey Kinderknecht, and third place Hannah Ponstein.

Superintendent Bill Lowry announced several January dates including an in-service day held Jan. 19, beginning at 9 a.m. in the band room. Board members were invited to attend the meeting in order to hear concerns regarding health insurance. Mr. Lowry also encouraged the board to attend the home basketball game on Jan. 30 in order to be recognized. January is "Board Recognition Month."

The Junior High will play basketball with White Rock at 2 p.m. on Jan. 28. The G.N.E.C. Tournament will begin Jan. 31.

In other business, the board:

- Heard a presentation given by high school instructor Jason Dibble involving inductive reasoning and problem solving.

- Approved a personal day for high school teacher Chuck Fessenden the day preceding spring break.

- Suggested an open date be scheduled in December next year so that if the Christmas program had to be rescheduled, there would be an available night.

- Learned that applications were being accepted for a new para-professional position. Interviews would be conducted soon.

- Gave input on problems regarding the Transportation Waiver which was implemented this year. Assistant Principal Lonnie Brungardt said he will be working on this as well as the basketball scheduled for next year.



Eisenhower Elementary is no exception when it comes to celebrating Kansas' birthday as their front bulletin board shows.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

NORTON MANOR

By DORIS MIZELL

Esther Tweed visited Velva McClain on Jan. 12.

Doris Mizell's daughter and grandson Patty and Jared Foster, Jennings visited Wednesday afternoon. Jared was getting ready to return to K-State for the second semester.

Sunday Kay Wassinger, Hays visited Velva McClain. She took her to lunch at the Chinese restaurant. Then on Monday her daughter-in-law Audrey McClain, Clay Center visited her.

Doris Mizell attended United Methodist Women at the church in Clayton Friday afternoon.

Area company provides jobs to many

(Continued from Page 1)

Telephone had only three exchanges, which is the jargon the company uses to describe their service territories, the company has greatly expanded its business. In 1951, their three exchanges were Edmond, Damar, and Logan.

As smaller phone companies went out of business, Rural Tele-

phone bought those companies' territories. In addition to the original three exchanges, Lenora, Morland, Palco, Selden, Rexford, Zurich, Jennings, Natoma, Victoria, Olmitz, Galatia, Collyer, Agra, Kensington, Athol, Gaylord, Woodston, Alton, Prairie View, Grainfield, Gove, Long Island, Woodruff, Hill City,

Quinter, and WaKeeney are the communities that make up Rural Telephone's service territory.

Nex-Tech provides service to Norton, Almena, Hays, Osborne, Portis, and other western Kansas locations such as Stockton, Oakley and Smith Center to name a few.

AROUND THE ANDBE HOME

By DARLENE McEWEN

A few days before Christmas, I had a page from the office. It was Coni Park, the Andbe Home Administrator, saying that Ray Hoover had been to her office and wanted to go shopping for a gift for his daughter. I was touched that he wanted to purchase a package but at the same time wondered how I was going to manage to take Ray shopping and still get all that needed to be completed accomplished before Christmas. There were packages to open and letters to read. The bird cage needed to be cleaned and there were several special activities that needed my help. In other words, I was dragging! On the other hand, I hated to miss any kind of shopping adventure even if it was with a man who was one hundred two years old! Immediately questions began to float around my head. Things like what would he want to buy, where would he want to shop and did he have money all drifted through my brain.

My mind recalled memories of Ray from the many years of living in Norton. I remember the acres of peonies and gladiolus he grew in the southwest part of town. I knew

he was a talented blue rock shooter and often went to those "big cities" for shooting sports. I saw throughout Norton the work he did by painting homes and businesses for others. But I did not know he was a family man until I met his daughter and grandchildren when he entered the Andbe Home. They live in Texas but they should write a book about being supportive for nursing home resident at a distance. There are letters, packages, phone calls and concern for Ray from them all year. They hold a birthday bash for Ray every year on his birthday. It includes a party, an outing to the local bingo games and meals at local cafes.

Ray and I took the Andbe Home Van for the shopping trip downtown. He tucked his money in his pocket and told me he wanted to go

to LuJon's to select a coat for his daughter.



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