

OBITUARIES

Ella B. Boethin

Feb. 9, 1926 - May 29, 2004

Ella Barbara Margaret (Merklein) Boethin, 78, died May 29 at the Andbe Home in Norton. Mrs. Boethin was born on a farm south of Stuttgart on Feb. 9, 1926, the daughter of Edward and Maria (Wagner) Merklein.

She was baptized on March 7, 1926, and was later confirmed in the Lutheran faith on June 18, 1939, at the Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church at Stuttgart.

On April 11, 1945, she married Wilbur C. Boethin of Logan. They made their home in Clearfield, Utah, for almost a year before moving back to Kansas. They lived on a farm seven miles northeast of Logan.

Mrs. Boethin loved farm life and raised chickens, ducks and geese. She was an accomplished homemaker, canning fruits, vegetables and meats for many years. She delivered eggs to customers on a weekly basis and also worked in several homes.

She was preceded in death by her husband Wilbur on Nov. 11, 2003; a brother, Richard Carl Merklein; her sister, Elsie Post; and her parents.

Survivors include her two daughters, Virginia and Robert Charbonneau, Topeka; and Vivian and Mike Luft, Norton; a sister, Betty Marie Zillinger of rural

Phillipsburg; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at the church in Stuttgart with Pastor Eric Bodenstab officiating. Phyllis Merklein accompanied the congregation while they sang, "Softly and Tenderly", "How Great Thou Art" and "O, Take My Hand Dear Father".

Casket bearers were Steve Schick, William Schick, Kerry Zillinger, Dale Merklein, Merlyn Schick and Doug Zillinger. Honorary bearers were Max Schick, Rick Schurz, Jack Rundle, Jerry Kessler, Leland Rundle, Calvin Boethin, Keith Grammon, Bob Withington, Johnnie Parsons and Dwight Merklein.

Burial was in the Pleasant View Cemetery, Logan.

Logan Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Card of Thanks

Our heartfelt thanks for the kindnesses shown our family since the loss of our loved one. Your prayers, cards, phone calls, floral tributes and memorials have all been appreciated.

A special "thank you" to the ladies of Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church for providing lunch before the service.

The family of Ella B. Boethin



Jamie-Leigh and Donald Fitzhugh

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Fitzhugh (Jamie-Leigh Compaan)

Jamie-Leigh Compaan and Donald Ernest Fitzhugh were married July 5 in a double-ring ceremony performed by the Rev. Lew Van Der Wege at the First United Methodist Church, Norton.

Parents of the couple are Bertie-Leigh Compaan and the late Kenneth E. Compaan, Norton, and the late Geraldine June and Kenneth Fitzhugh of Millville, N.J.

Mrs. Compaan, South Korea, the bride's brother, played three trombone numbers accompanied by Rosetta McFarland. Candlelighters Jennifer Teten, Oklahoma City and Ashley Gitchel, Emporia, nieces of the bride, lit the candelabras and remained as junior bridesmaids. Vocal soloists were Roberta Gitchel, Emporia, who sang, "True Love" and Mark Compaan who sang, "Beautiful In My Eyes".

Mrs. Compaan was ushered in and seated by her nephews, Larry Neustel, South Dakota and David Kaufman, North Dakota.

The bride was escorted down the aisle by her uncle, Vernon Compaan, California, to the traditional wedding march. She wore a full-skirted, short-sleeved satin gown embellished with white pearls and sequins and a long train. Her double-layered shoulder-length veil was accented by a white pearl and crystal tiara. She

wore a pearl necklace and earrings, a gift from the groom.

The bridal party consisted of Roberta Gitchel, Emporia, bridal attendant, and bridesmaid Melody Teten, Oklahoma City, both sisters of the bride; and Suzette Fitterer, North Dakota, cousin of the bride. Best man was Dusty Reichard, Pomona, friend of the groom and groomsmen Ted Teten, Oklahoma City and Herb Flitton, North Dakota.

The wedding rings were tied to a lace and satin pillow carried by ring bearer, Luke Gitchel, Emporia, nephew of the bride.

After lighting the unity candle, the groom held the bride's hands and sang, "I Can't Help Falling In Love With You".

Sharon Guthmiller, North Dakota, cousin of the bride, was in charge of the guest book and gift table. She was also the ceremony coordinator.

After receiving their guests at the church, the newlyweds were showered with wild birdseed as they exited the church. To the couple's surprise, there was an authentic, antique, horse-drawn carriage waiting to drive them to the wedding dinner at J. Gregory's restaurant.

Dinner and cake were served at the restaurant followed by a dance. The couple is planning a honeymoon trip to Branson, Mo.

READERS

Mary Jo Montgomery hosted a birthday dinner Sunday evening honoring her husband, Gale, and her good friend, Ila Virgil. Other guests were Bob Virgil and Jim and Carolyn Plotts, Norcatar.

— **Steak and seafood night, Thursday 6-9 p.m. American Legion. Members and guests.** 6/8

Maggie Ellis, 2004 Norton Community High School graduate, has accepted a \$400 Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award to attend Fort Hays State University next year.

She was in volleyball, basketball and softball and was on the honor roll. Miss Ellis, daughter of Ron and Shelley Ellis, Lenora, plans to major in psychology.

It will be a 'Hummel' of a good time

It was certainly not a ho-Hummel day at a local auction hall recently when a large number of Berta Hummel figurines went on the block.

Berta Hummel was a Franciscan nun who went by the name of Sister Innocentia. The sweet-faced children she sculpted certainly reflect the essence of innocence and happy childhood. They bring a smile to every face.

Since their creation in 1935 Hummel figurines have not only maintained their value but many have appreciated substantially. Each one is well marked and cataloged so it is relatively easy to establish their age, depending on which of the many marks they bear.

Several good reference books are on the market that specify the date ranges of certain marks, as well as estimated value.

The F & W Goebel Company of Rodental, West Germany, manufactures the Hummel line but they also produce other items.

This can lead to confusion in that some collectors think all Goebel marks indicate a Hummel. Not so — if it is a true Hummel it will always be marked with the Hummel name as well as a number for identification.

As in all original and clever items, many imitations and knockoffs are out there and adorable though these may be, better know your marks and identification numbers before you purchase.

Some of the older editions have a book value as high as \$2,500 to \$4,000.

One, No. 191, titled "Old Man Walking to the Market" is shown in the current Schroeder's Antique Guide at over \$10,000.

Needless to say, none of the ones sold here did quite that well although some got close to their book values. Highest bid went to No. 71, "Stormy Weather", which sold for over \$300.

It is probably everyone's favorite — the two children happily sharing a big black umbrella. Most of the others brought under \$200 each and a few went under \$100, so there were some bargains for the determined bidder.

Dates varied from 1938 to 1993. As in all collectibles, damage decreases values dramatically.

Hummels are particularly vulnerable to damage because of their

Collector Chat Liza Deines



exquisite detail. Always check for the fingers, the handles of baskets, umbrellas, canes, candles, and especially the tiny bowed pigtailed that distinguish most of the little girls.

Wee flowers and fragile branches are sometimes missing. A few of the items sold in Norton had been broken and although they were meticulously mended, they did not bring good bids.

A halogen light also revealed quite a bit of crackling or crazing of the finish due to our humidity levels here on the plains. While this was not noticeable to the naked eye, a national Hummel dealer explained to me that a dedicated collector would not consider those salable.

Fortunately for the ordinary collector this left some very nice pieces selling at reasonable levels.

My thanks to my sister, Ann, who kept track of all the bids for me while I had to be away from the action for a spell; also to the Schroeder's Antique Guide for pricing information.

It isn't often that Norton sees such an outstanding collection sell and I was happy to see that while a goodly number of the cuties sold to out-of-town dealers, there were a respectable number of Norton bidders who took home a few treasures for their collections.

SADDER BUT WISER: We just cleaned the deep freeze and found unidentified frozen objects from the dark ages. I thawed a few to try to figure out what they were and learned that the old adage "when in doubt, throw it out" is a classic for a good reason. Do not let old foil wrapped whatsits take up your valuable freezer space.

MARKETS

At close of business June 7	
Wheat	\$3.45
Milo	\$4.61
Corn	\$2.92

DEATH NOTICES

Jo Rice

Jo Rice, Norton, the wife of Mel Rice, died Monday at Norton County Hospital.

Services are pending with Enfield Funeral Home in charge of the arrangements.

Madeline Piele

Funeral services are pending for former Norton County resident, Madeline Wyone (McCormack) Piele. Mrs. Piele died Friday in

Phoenix. She is the sister of Maxine Carr of Norton. The funeral and burial will be in Phoenix.

THE CITY OF NORTON



would like to remind citizens that all flowers at the cemetery must be picked up by 8:00 a.m. **Thursday, June 10**

The Roads Are Open!
The Overpass Construction is nearing completion and we greatly appreciate everyone's patience through this project.

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