

# OBITUARIES

## Norman K. Leichliter

May 26, 1911 - Oct. 18, 2004

Norman K. Leichliter, 93, Coralville, Iowa, died at his home on Oct. 18.

Mr. Leichliter was born in Clayton on May 26, 1911.

He married Geneva Brookshire in 1936, and moved to Norton where he served as chief of police. He sold farm equipment for John Deere for two years. He owned Leichliter Implement Co. for 19 years in Atwood. Later, he worked in Hays for 19 years for Price Brothers Equipment Co. of Wichita.

Mr. Leichliter was active with Gideon's International and his church for many years. He also served in the Army during WWII.

Preceding him in death were his two oldest children, JoAnn K. Ratzlaff and Norman W. Leichliter.

He is survived by his wife, Geneva Leichliter; two sons, Homer H. Leichliter, Rochester, Minn.; and John Philip Leichliter, Walnut Creek, Calif.; his daughter, Kathy J. Miller, Coralville, Iowa; 14 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13, at the Clayton Cemetery. Memorial services will follow at 11 a.m. at the Full Gospel Church in Norton. A luncheon will follow in the fellowship hall of the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made in his name to The Gideon's International, Attention: Judy, Box 140800, Nashville, Iowa 52240.



N. Leichliter

## Bill E. Leitner

Jan. 30, 1927 - Oct. 23, 2004

Bill E. Leitner, 77, of Bennington died at his home on Saturday.

Mr. Leitner was born Jan. 30, 1927, in Merced, Calif., the son of Hank and Annabel (Rowland) Leitner. He moved to western Kansas at an early age and attended high school in St. Francis. He enlisted in the Navy when he was 17 and served in the South Pacific during World War II.

On Sept. 7, 1947, he married Lucille Dankenbring. He was a banker in Goodland and Norton for many years before retiring to Bennington in 1991, to be closer to his three children.

He was a member of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, the Goodland Elks, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans.

Preceding him in death were his

parents; his sister, Carolyn Wolfe; four brothers, Dale, Gale, Dean and Glenn.

Survivors include his wife Lucille; a son, Gary Leitner, Olathe; daughters, Cindy and Greg Tieperman, Plano, Texas; and Shari Johnson and Ron, Concordia; and a sister, Darla Mather, Sharon Springs; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the United Church of Bennington. A private family inurnment will be held at a later date in the Goodland Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the church or Ottawa County Hospice. Contributions may be sent to Box 266, Bennington, Kan. 67422.

## Barbara Frick-Skeels

July 28, 1933 - Oct. 23, 2004

Barbara Frick-Skeels, 71, died Saturday at Kansas University Hospital in Kansas City of complications from leukemia.

She was born July 28, 1933, in Almena, the daughter of Jacob and Florence (Rorabaugh) Dragt. She received a bachelor's degree in English with a vocal minor from Fort Hays State College in 1955, and a master's degree in education from Fort Hays State University in 1985.

Her career started in Atwood, where she taught grades 9-12 from 1955-1964. She continued in Atwood as a librarian and media specialist, from 1964-1985, later working at Tonganoxie High School and Landon Middle School.

She was active in professional and civic organizations, most recently in forming the Orchards Golf Course Neighborhood Association with her husband.

Others included serving on the board of directors for the Friends of Hospice, in Topeka; as an appointee to the Kansas Citizen's Committee for the Review of the Tort System Concerning Medical Malpractice; working on the Kansas Library Assoc. Legislative Committee; as treasurer and member of the executive board, of the Northwest Kansas Library System; as delegate to the Kansas Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information Services in 1979; and as a member of Congressmen Keith Sebelius and Pat Roberts' Academy Screening Board.

Ms. Frick-Skeels was active in Kansas government and the Republican Party, working for former Gov. Mike Hayden and serving as the special assistant to the director of the Kansas Lottery from 1987-1991.

An active member of her church, she recently sang with the church choir at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

She married Jack Skeels on June 19, 1999, in Lawrence.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Survivors include her husband Jack, Lawrence; a grandson, Chase Waterman, of the home; a daughter, Lora Frick, Dover; a brother, Burt Dragt, Denver; and other grandchildren.

Ms. Frick-Skeels will lie in repose from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. on Wednesday at the Rumsey-Yost Funeral Home, Lawrence. The family will receive friends there from 6-8 p.m. Friends will share memories beginning at 7 p.m.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at the First United Methodist Church in Lawrence.

The family suggests memorials to the Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen or the First United Methodist Church of Lawrence. Contributions may be sent in care of the funeral home at 601 Indiana St., Lawrence, Kan. 66044.

E-mail condolences may be sent to Remember\_Barb@Yahoo.com.

## Merle Sleffel

Aug. 21, 1917 - Oct. 21, 2004

Merle Sleffel, 87, died Oct. 21 at the Logan Manor.

Mr. Sleffel was born Aug. 21, 1917, in Norton County, the son of Fremont and Odessa (Sorrels) Sleffel.

He attended school in a one-room country schoolhouse less than a mile away from this parent's home and later attended Norton High School, graduating in 1936. He took a job as a surveyor for the Rural Electrification Administration surveying one of the first high-tension electric lines through central Kansas.

On June 15, 1938, he and Zelma Ritter were married in Beloit. In 1941, they returned to Norton County to manage his parent's farm. He continued farming until his retirement in 1983. He also drove a school bus for the Norton school district for more than 20 years as well as working as a plumber and electrician.

His wife died April 2, 1994.

He was a longtime member of the Kansas Farm Bureau and was a delegate to several national conventions. He was also a member of the Norton Lions Club. At 79, he bought a computer and spent much of his time in his remaining years doing genealogical research of the Sleffel, Ritter and related families. He traveled around Kansas to find information in libraries, court-houses, and on headstones of de-

ceased relatives.

Disabled by Parkinson's disease, he spent the last four months of his life at the Logan Manor.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, a grandson, Mark Sleffel, and two sisters, Sybil Campbell and Majal Pittaway.

Survivors include: three sons Carroll and Patricia Sleffel, Concordia; Bill and Jo Sleffel, Pueblo West, Colo.; and Don and Susan Sleffel, Aurora, Ill.; a daughter, Linda Sleffel, Columbus, Ohio; and four grandchildren. Funeral services were held Monday at Enfield Funeral Home with Jeff Nielsen officiating. Burial was in the Norton Cemetery.

A memorial has been established to the Parkinson Disease Foundation and may be sent in care of the funeral home at 215 W. Main, Norton, Kan. 67654.

## MARKETS

At close of business Oct. 25

Wheat .....	\$3.05
White Wheat .....	\$3.03
Milo .....	\$2.98
Corn .....	\$1.90
Soybeans .....	\$4.78

# Pretty or plain, aprons are used for many things

Collector Chat Liza Deines



A little touch of Sweden came to Norton recently when the Norton County Arts Council brought us the Lindsborg Danslag group.

An autumn afternoon of accordion music and Scandinavian folk dancing was a pleasure to all who attended. Authentic and colorful costumes worn by the dancers were a part of that pleasure. I especially enjoyed the fancy, embroidered aprons for they brought back some happy memories.

Did your mother wear an apron? Or perhaps your grandmother?

My mama always wore an apron. I would be willing to bet that very few young women today even own one, much less wear one. How sad that such a useful piece of apparel has become only a curiosity to be collected.

In the early years of my life I remember Mama wearing old fashioned coveralls. They had big bibs and straps that crossed and buttoned in the back, a generous skirt as long as her house dress, large, capacious pockets and long sashes. Home stitched from feed sack material that wasn't quite pretty enough for dresses, aprons of dark paisley prints were favored because they didn't show spots. Like the U.S. soldier, farm wife aprons were there to serve and protect.

Not only were wardrobes and laundry options limited, but housekeeping itself was not a tidy business in early days.

No automatic washers and dryers, much less permanent press, convenience foods, dishwashers or microwaves. A farm wife carried coal scuttles, butchered chickens, picked garden sass, toted garbage buckets to the hogs, gathered eggs, fried spattering foods, washed greasy pots and pans and performed dozens of other messy tasks in the course of a typical day. A good, sturdy apron was an absolute necessity. If company turned in at the drive, off came that grubby apron and a fresh one was tied on in a jiffy. A crisp, clean apron made you feel like a lady even if you'd worked like a slave all day.

An apron was truly a multi tasker. Picking up the corners created a handy pouch for transporting a batch of green beans, the stray egg or two or a misplaced kitten. It could serve as a kerchief

for a weeping child, a sweaty forehead or, in an emergency, a bloody nose. And there was usually a peppermint in the pocket for consolation. Shooting chickens was easy with a flap or two of an apron tail. Bringing the cows in for milking was also easier when you had an apron handy to snap at Brownie or Bessie. Aprons functioned well as flags to call men in from the field at dinnertime or to wave down a passing neighbor.

Then there were frivolous dress-up aprons that were only worn for serving club or at church dinners. Mama's was white ruffled organdy with a large red rose on the pocket. Crocheted aprons were also for "good" and lots of women embroidered intricate cross stitch borders on checked gingham aprons. Ric rac, contrasting bias bands, and bits of eyelet lace trimmed some aprons just to give a touch of whimsy to style-starved women.

In the 1940s someone came up with plastic aprons and they were a sensation until women discovered they melted when they got against a hot stove.

At an auction in Colby last month a box of aprons brought almost \$100.

Hmmm — sure wish I'd saved an apron or two. We get too soon old and too late wise, as my Dutch relatives have been known to observe.

MY MAMA SAID: A phone call is nice, but you can put a letter in your apron pocket and read it again later when you're lonely.

## READERS

— Steak and Seafood night, Thursday 6-9 p.m. American Legion. Members and guests. 10/26

ham. Free will donation. 10/26

Weddings, funerals, engagements, and births. You'll find it all in... The Norton Telegram

— Prairie View Reformed Church Fall Supper, 5:30-7 p.m., Wed., Oct. 27. Turkey,

**HAUNTED HOUSE** October 29-31  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
7 p.m.-10 p.m.  
Sponsor: Hill City Chamber of Commerce and the Hill City Lions Club

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**Urgent news for people who have had Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Surgery**

Endovascular Technologies Corp. pled guilty to nine felony counts and agreed to pay \$92 million in penalties for not disclosing that its Ancure Endograft Stent System had failed in thousands of patients. These devices were inserted through the patient's groin to repair abdominal aortic aneurysms. If you or a loved one had complications from surgery to repair an abdominal aortic aneurysm after 1999, please contact attorney Lee Hollis at 800-701-3672 Today to find out about your legal rights. You may be entitled to substantial monetary damages.

**Lee J. Hollis, Attorney** 1-800-980-7577

Lee Hollis practices only in KS, MO, IA, MN & NE, but associates with attorneys throughout the U.S.

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9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

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