

OBITUARY

Maxine Brooks

April 1, 1918 - Dec. 19, 2006

Maxine Brooks, 88, died Tuesday at the Norton County Hospital.

The daughter of Manley and Minnie (McCabe) Davis, she was born April 1, 1918, near Dellvale.

She moved to Rexford, in 1923, and graduated from the Rexford school in 1936. She moved back to the farm near Dellvale after graduation.

On March 22, 1941, she and Jay Brooks were married. They made their home north of Clayton until 1981, when they moved to Norcat. Mr. Brooks died March 15, 1988. In 1998, Maxine moved to Norton.

She attended the Norton Church of God and was a member of the Royal Neighbors Lodge, Rebekah Lodge, Three Prairie Unit in Norcat, Past Noble Grand, and the Golden Glow Club in Norton.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; five

brothers, Leslie, Percy, Frank, Dale, and Wayne; four sisters, Velma Heitman, Marie Chadd, Lela Smith, and Fiona Frickey; and two grandsons, Grant Brooks and Lance Brooks.

Survivors include: two sons and their wives, Frank and Garnetta Brooks, Greeley, Colo. and Barry and Barbara Brooks, Atlanta, Ga.; one daughter and her husband, Shirley and Jerry Gallentine, Rapid City, S. D.; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Norton Church of God with Pastor Terrill Worthington officiating. Burial will be in the Clayton Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to the Norton Church of God or the Norcat Cemetery Fund. Contributions may be sent in care of Enfield Funeral Home, 215 W. Main, Norton, Kan. 67654.

Holidays time to make a family health check

Holiday visits with family and friends typically focus on food and fellowship, yet also offer an opportunity for adult children to consider how their parents are managing challenges associated with aging.

Saying that is not the same as saying that family members should spy on each other.

Paying attention to changes may spark conversation, but need not spark confrontation or spoil a holiday gathering. With parents and grown children viewing the holiday gathering as an opportunity to reconnect, either may welcome dialogue about changes — and challenges — in their personal life.

As children grow into adulthood, they can easily become absorbed in their own lives and, while they may talk on the telephone or e-mail their parents regularly, they may not return to the family home as frequently as they once did.

Seeing their parents in familiar surroundings can highlight changes. For example, suppose your parents have prided themselves on keeping a neat house and organizing personal papers, such as receipts for bills paid. Yet, when you arrive home for a scheduled visit, the housework has not been done. Mail is unopened and bills have been allowed to accumulate.

So, what is the reason behind such a change? Is a disease such as arthritis or loss of strength (associated with aging) preventing a parent from pushing a vacuum cleaner? Has there been a change in the routine for handling the mail? If so, why?

Such observations can stimulate minor changes — purchasing a lightweight vacuum cleaner or hiring a cleaning service and opting for direct bill payment — to remedy these needs.

With aging in place and living independently as long as possible the goal, the real issue becomes personal safety. If safety is at risk, change is needed. Here is a list with questions to help determine if needs exist.

PERSONAL CARE — Are parents able to bathe and shower regularly? Are they able to dress themselves easily? Do they have clean, seasonally appropriate clothing in good repair? Could they benefit from grab bars installed by the tub, shower, or toilet? Or would parents benefit from having a tub or shower bench installed? Might they benefit from a long-handled shoehorn, or from new shoes with easy-on Velcro closures, replacing shoe laces?

HOUSEKEEPING — Are parents able to handle vacuuming, dusting, cleaning the kitchen and bathroom, changing beds? Are they able to manage the laundry? Are pets well tended? Is clutter out of control? Or, could they benefit from a cleaning service or from adult children taking turns helping out?

MEALTIME — Are parents able to grocery shop? Is there adequate food on hand? In a cupboard or on a shelf that is easily reached? Are meals balanced in both nutrition and in portion? Are leftovers and prepared foods current or outdated? Is

Home ed Tranda Watts, Extension specialist



there any evidence of weight gain or loss? Could parents benefit from help with the grocery shopping or could they benefit from food and fellowship at a senior center? Might Meals on Wheels be a consideration?

HEALTH — Can parents get to the doctor or to other appointments? Are medications (prescribed and over-the-counter) taken as ordered? Can they get to and use the telephone to call 911 in case of an emergency? Can they execute plans of escape in case of a fire? Would parents benefit from a sort box for medicines? Might they benefit from a mobile phone that they can carry with them?

FINANCES — Is the checkbook in order? Are bills being paid regularly? Is there cash on hand and, if so, can the parent utilize it? Would they like someone to write out their checks each month? Would automatic bill paying be useful? Would a system for distinguishing different types of bills (\$1, \$5, etc) be useful?

MOBILITY — Can parents walk without losing their balance? Are they able to manage the stairs? Can they stand up and sit down easily? Could they benefit from handrails in the house or an automatic lift recliner? Would strength training and/or regular exercise be beneficial? How is their driving? Could they benefit from a safe-driving course? Are public transportation options available?

SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS — Are parents participating in a church or group, be it a card group, neighborhood sewing or reading group? Do they see neighbors and friends regularly? Would learning how to use e-mail help parents keep in touch? Would a member of the group be willing to come pick them up to attend functions?

Such questions offer a beginning overview of potential problems associated with aging. Identifying one or more problems doesn't necessarily mean a parent can no longer stay at home. The key is beginning a dialogue that sets the stage for helping parents, while also creating an environment that allows everyone to maintain grace, dignity and as much independence as possible.

Weigh benefits with risks, respect your parents' values and concerns, and refrain from criticism.

For further information, contact your local K-State Research and Extension Office.

Tranda Watts is Kansas State University extension specialist in food, nutrition, health and safety for Norton, Decatur, Gove, Sheridan, and Trego counties. Call her at 785-443-3663 or e-mail twatts@oznet.ksu.edu. For more information, contact the county extension office, 877-5755.

Jail Log

Dec. 15 — Maria J. Harvey, Dodge City, failure to appear, released Dec. 19.

Dec. 16 — Jeremy Sporleder, Norton, bench warrant from Graham Co., released Dec. 16.

Municipal Court

There were no transactions reported from the offices of the Norton Municipal Court this week.

District Court

These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the District Court clerk at the Norton County Courthouse. Traffic, criminal and wildlife parks cases are given to the paper when the fines are paid. Limited action and small claim cases are reported only after the defendant is served.

Traffic

Oct. 28 — Natalie E. Cutts, Wichita, speeding 81 in a 65

mph zone, fine \$66, court cost \$66.

Nov. 22 — James A. Harris, Phoenix, Ariz., speeding 76 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$36, court cost \$66.

Nov. 26 — Leroy A. Hanes, Almena, speeding 77 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$42, court cost \$60.

Nov. 26 — Joseph D. Maynard, expired registration and speeding 78 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$114, court cost \$66.

Nov. 26 — Marcus R. Palimenio, Garden City, speeding 85 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$90, court cost \$66.

Dec. 3 — Christopher P. Anderson, Scottsdale, Ariz., speeding 77 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$42, court cost \$66.

Dec. 7 — Manuel H. Espino, over weight limits on wheels and axles, fine \$200, court cost \$66.

Dec. 8 — Rebecca J. Carter, Jennings, speeding 77 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$42, court cost \$66.

Dec. 15 — Virgil W. Mock, Norton, speeding 78 in a 65 mph zone, fine \$48, court cost \$66.

Club learns how to teach meaning of Christmas

Mid-Century Federated Club members had the "Opportunity to Teach the Children" at their Dec. 14 meeting held at the home of Karen Cox.

Norma Rufford presented the reading, "Teach the Children" which illustrated how we can so easily teach our children the real meaning of Christmas using things they are familiar with: The pure green of the fir tree depicting the everlasting hope of mankind. The candle that symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world. That Santa Claus symbolizes the generosity and good we will feel during the month of December. And, the Angels song, "Glory to God on the highest on earth, peace and good will to men," told the glorious news of the Savior's birth.

The Yuletide Tasting Table was filled with Christmas goodies and was enjoyed by 17 members. A quiz, "Christmas Carols Recast", was worked on and it revealed that we really do know our Christmas music. Virginia Will was named winner as she correctly answered all 26 puzzles.

Beverly Kindler, president, conducted a short business

meeting. Thank you letters were read by Leta Donovan, corresponding secretary. A letter was read from Nelda Emery thanking the club for the angels sent to the Veterans Hospital. A card from the Humane Society of the United States thanked us for the Adopt-A-Classroom Project. And a letter from Sarah Durham told of the upcoming Relay for Life.

Each member gave a gift of \$5 for the Christmas Giving. The gift will be given to Norton's God's Pantry.

Roll call was answered with "My Christmas Kindness." Each member told what her Christmas Kindness Sister had done for her for Christmas. Gifts varied from breakfast out, a trip to the Dairy Queen, enjoying a movie, and some fun things to look at. Miss Kinder gave everyone friendship bookmarks and the hostess, Mrs. Cox, presented each with an angel.

The next meeting will be Jan. 11 with Carolyn Higgason, hostess and Geraldine Packer, co-hostess. There will be election of officers and volunteer hours will be due. Members are asked to bring a quilt for a display.

BEAVER CITY

By JOY STALDER

Pastor Linda Knipping, Novella Hewett and DeEtta Dunkhas attended the Christmas program Saturday afternoon at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The Hollinger Methodist Church held their program Sunday evening with a good crowd in attendance.

Bill and Dee Lamb spent Saturday and Sunday in Burlington, Colo., and attended the girls' Christmas program.

They returned home Sunday and stopped in Colby to attend Christine Lamb's band concert at the Colby Community College Sunday afternoon.

Julie Harper returned home Dec. 3, after spending 10 days in St. Paul, Minn., with Mike and Kathy Harper and family and had

Thanksgiving with them.

She also spent a week in Egon, Minn., working at Operation Shoebox warehouse, processing shoe boxes.

Suzan Long spent the week babysitting with her grandchildren, Nathan and Kristen Holcomb of Gibbon.

Saturday afternoon Lawrence and Ruth Kentfield attended the Seventh Day Adventist Church Christmas program.

MARKETS

At close of business Dec. 21

Wheat	\$4.59
Milo	\$3.43
Corn	\$3.55
Soybeans	\$5.80

READERS

— A reception to honor the retirement of Karen Reedy will be held from 3-5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29 at the offices of Sebelius and Griffiths. Greetings will reach her at P.O. Box 51, Norton, Kan. 67654. 12/22

Gina Frack of the Norton County Health Department re-

cently earned her Public Health Certificate. Mrs. Frack received her certificate Dec. 13 in ceremonies at the State Capitol.

Daniel Roeder, Norton, is a recent graduate of Manhattan Area Technical College. His certificate is in Electric Power and Distribution.

NEW ALMELO

By BETTY OTTER

On Nov. 18, Marion and Marilyn Otter, Greg and Tammy Otter, Seth and Alissa, New Almelo; and Steve Otter, Wichita, all attended the musical, "Oklahoma" at Lakin High School. Alan Kessler, grandson and nephew, was one of the performing cowboys. He was wearing his great Uncle Bob's Stetson hat.

George and Vickie Gassmann and Margie Unrein attended the Thanksgiving dinner at the Cedar Living Center in Oberlin with Mathilda Bolig which was held Nov. 19.

On Monday, Nov. 20, Marion Long moved to the St. John's of Hays Nursing Facility. Lorraine has an apartment close by. Cards and letters can be sent to 2403 Canterbury No. 7, Hays, Kan. 67601.

Tuesday, Nov. 21, Tom Otter, DeSoto, arrived at the home of his parents, Alfred and Betty Otter. Wednesday morning, Tom and Alfred drove to Flagstaff, Ariz., to spend some time camping out in the mountains with Alfred's brother, Harold Otter.

Allie and Ruth Vahling attended an early Thanksgiving meal on Wednesday at the home of their son, Dick and Betty Vahling, Dresden. On Thursday, they returned to Dick and Betty's home for another Thanksgiving meal. On Saturday night, they attended a surprise birthday party at Norcat for Gary Hillebrand's 50th birthday.

Coming to the home of George and Vickie Gassmann for Thanksgiving dinner were their children, Randy and Beth Gassmann and boys, New Almelo; Alice and Wes James and girls, Ellis; Connie Gassmann, Colby; other relatives were Jackie and Chuck Wright, Lenora; Sherri and Randy Sander, their daughter, Kelley and friend Andrew, Amarillo, Texas; Terry Fisher and sons, Tyler and Tanner and Fred Wilson, Ellis; Sam Batson, Norton; and friend Dorothy Mindrup. Their son Jeremy and Brandi Gassmann and Alaina, Lee's Summit, Mo., came on Friday. Mike Mindrup and Jason,

Olathe, spent some time at the home of their mother and grandmother, Dorothy Mindrup. They left early on Thursday.

House guests at the home of Randy and Beth Gassmann and boys were Beth's sister, Janet and Don Bertling and girls, Valley Center. The George Hachmeister children celebrated Thanksgiving/Christmas with their mother, Evelyn and Gary Aumiller.

Thanksgiving guests at the home of Russ and Marcia Aumiller and Josh Vahling were Jeremy and Missy Rumbach and girls. Russ's brother spent Wednesday with them.

Raymond and Bonita Slipke and family ate Thanksgiving dinner with his mother, Miriam Slipke, Hoxie.

Coming to the home of Marion and Marilyn Otter for Thanksgiving were Greg and Tammy Otter and Seth and Alissa, Bridgett Otter, Dustin and Jon Shellito and girls, Oakley; and Zach Otter, Kansas City.

Roger and JoAnn Long spent Thanksgiving with their daughter, Joanie and Darin Winkel and girls, Norton.

Dennis Linden, McPherson, visited his father, Bob Linden on the weekend.

Family coming to the home of Alfred and Betty Otter for the Thanksgiving holidays were, Tina and Will Ritter and family, Olathe; Mark and Sheila Otter and family, Ulysses; Ashley Otter, Lenora; Jim and Jolene Moss and family, Jewel; Karl Otter, Great Bend; Charles Otter Saige and Cury, Salina. On Thursday evening they were joined by Gary and Bertsie Bruinekool, Lenora; Renee Bruinekool and Kirk Persinger, Norton, Art and Karen Bates, Chad and Amy Bates and family, Edmond, Okla., for an evening meal and visiting. Will and Tina Ritter and family had Thanksgiving dinner with Will's parents, Vincent and Mary Ritter, Leoville. On Saturday, they visited with his grandmother, Anna Reinert, Sequin.

Have a story idea? Call 877-3361 and let us know ... we'd love to hear about it!

Showing at the
NORTON THEATRE
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
(Premiere) 1 Hour, 48 Minutes — (PG)
\$7.00 for Adults; \$6.00 for Children 12 and Under
Show Times: Friday and Saturday: 8 p.m.
Sunday: Closed.; Mon., Tues., Wed.: 7 p.m.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
(Premiere) 1 Hour, 35 Minutes — (G)
\$7.00 for Adults
\$6.00 for Children 12 and Under

Let's go to the Movie

No Passes accepted for Night at the Museum or Charlotte's Web

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GRANDPA

From: Corey, Connor, Ryan, Rylee, and Haley

Happy 95th Birthday on Saturday, Dec. 30 Hazel Bates

A Card Shower Has Been Requested for Hazel. Cards will reach her at 104 Whispering Pines Norton, KS 67654

Merry Christmas!

From Your Friends at the
CARDINAL BAR AND GRILL
IN NORCATUR

Holiday Hours: Saturday 12-23—Closing at 2:00 p.m.; Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; Saturday 12-30 — Closing at 2:00 p.m. Closed New Year's Eve and New Year's Day