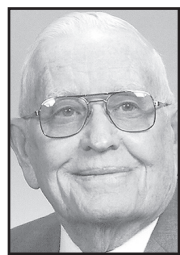


## LaVoine Thomas Collicott

Dec. 1, 1914 - April 15, 2008  
LaVoine Thomas Collicott was born Dec. 1, 1914, at his parents' sod dugout home- stead, located in the canyons, 3 miles south of Haigler, Neb., in Cheyenne County, Kan. He was one of three children, and the only son, born to Charlie Thomas Collicott and Glenna Alice (Workman) Collicott. His life of 93 years, 4 months and 15 days ended April 15, 2008, at Hillcrest Care Center, Wray, Colo.



Collicott

At the age of 2 1/2 years, LaVoine moved into the town of Haigler with his parents and his older sister, Elsie. A few years later, a younger sister, DeVeta, was born into the family. He spent all of his childhood days in Haigler...growing up in the little white stucco house that still stands at the corner of Atkinson Avenue and Norfolk Street.

LaVoine attended the Haigler Public Schools. In these early years, he assisted his father with farming and operating a gas station on the Nebraska/Kansas state line. He told the story of being robbed, at gunpoint, while he was running the station alone one day. In later years, he also helped his parents with their dairy farm and milk deliveries.

LaVoine loved music and played banjo in the local community band and for many dances.

But, as most young men want to do, he also wanted to leave home and see some of the world. So, he packed his bags and went to Denver, Colo. and worked as an elevator boy on the night shift at the Albany Hotel.

He was dating Opal Myer at the time, and she worked summers at the Tecker Family Forest Inn, near Estes Park, Colo., and they would meet in Estes Park. But, he missed Haigler, returning soon after his Denver adventure.

He registered for the draft during World War II and was called several times, but failed the physical. LaVoine spent the rest of his life in the Haigler, Dundy County community.

On June 18, 1940, LaVoine was united in marriage to his sweetheart, Opal Rosella Myer of Haigler. They were married in Goodland. To this union, four children were born: LaNeta Lorene in 1943; Myrna Mae in 1949; and twins, Galena Faye and Gail Thomas in 1953.

LaVoine and Opal lived and raised their family in the Haigler area. In 1964, they purchased the A.J. McVey home in Haigler. Together, they worked on house, yard, flowers and gardens for almost 40 years.

They celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in 2005. In January, 2006, LaVoine and Open moved to Hillcrest Care Center in Wray. Opal died on March 22, 2006. LaVoine was a devoted, loving, patient and kind husband and father to his family all these many years.

LaVoine was never afraid of work, and did many kinds of jobs throughout his working years. He always had a knack for "fix-

ing things." Following his marriage to Opal, he worked at the Frank Tecker Ranch, near Parks, Neb., was employed by the Burlington Northern Railroad for 2 years, worked and lived at the W.H. Brown farm at Sanborn; and returned to the Village of Haigler to work for Dundy County, maintaining roads in the county for the next 24 years. It was often said that nobody could do a good road like LaVoine. In 1971, LaVoine was named Dundy County Roads Superintendent by the Dundy County Commissioners. He fulfilled his duties in this job until his retirement in 1980 at age 65. During some of these years, he also worked evenings at the McKay Phillips 66 Gas Station on Highway 34 in Haigler.

In addition to receiving his license as Dundy County Roads Superintendent from the State of Nebraska in 1971, LaVoine was recognized July 7, 1998, for his 50 years of membership in the Haigler United Methodist Church. In January, 2006, he was awarded a 75-year membership pin from the Royal Neighbors of America.

LaVoine's interests and hobbies always kept him busy. He loved to hunt, fish, boat and go camping. At age 85, he was still shooting his own deer. From tent camping in the Rocky Mountains and elk hunting in his earlier years to all the fishing trips with campers at Sutherland Reservoir, Trenton Lake and Rock Creek Lake, he loved the outdoors.

LaVoine was also a master gardener and always knew when to plant potatoes.

In earlier years, he enjoyed videotaping his home, his family and all their activities together, and the nature around him. Through his patience and by the examples he set, LaVoine instilled in each of his children and grandchildren this appreciation of nature.

La Voine was preceded in death by his parents, Charlie and Glenna Collicott; his wife, Opal, who was his sweetheart and life-long companion for 70 years; his son, Gail Thomas Collicott and his sister, Elsie (Collicott) Applebey.

He is survived by his three daughters, LaNeta Carlock and husband, Stanley; Myrna Mulligan and husband, Charlie and Galena Webster and husband, Stan, all of Haigler; grandchildren, Skip Mulligan and wife, Melissa, of Saginaw, Mich.; Richard Mulligan and wife, Trit, of Charleston, S.C.; Daniela Webster of Coralville, Iowa; Darrell Webster of Haigler; Mitchell and Matthew Collicott of McCook, Neb.; and Jyssa Forch of Stratton, Neb.; great-grandchildren, Hannah Reed and Lucy Mulligan of Mount Pleasant and Alayna and Chaz Mulligan of Saginaw; and one sister, DeVeta (Collicott) Redfield and husband, Dwaune of Palisade, Neb.

Services honoring the life of LaVoine were held April 21 at the Haigler United Methodist Church with Reverend Terry Douglass officiating. Carol Peterson was the pianist. Musical selections included "How Great

Thou Art," "It Is No Secret," "The Lord's Prayer," "Silver-Haired Daddy of Mine," "One Day At A Time," and "Ashokan Farewell."

Casket bearers were sons-in-law Stanley Carlock, Charlie Mulligan and Stan Webster; grandsons, Skip and Rich Mulligan, Darrell Webster and Mitchell and Matthew Collicott.

Memorials may be made to the LaVoine Collicott Memorial Fund. Interment was in the Haigler Cemetery.

## David E. Williams

Feb. 19, 1915 - March 22, 2008  
Services were held for David Edwin Williams, 93, of Forest Grove, Ore., who died Saturday, March 22, 2008, in his home.

Mr. Williams was born Feb. 19, 1915, in Franklin, Neb., the son of Frank E. Williams and Lucy Mae (Alexander) Williams. At the age of 3, he moved with his family to Bird City, Kan., where he was raised and received his education at Frontier Country School, Number 26.

He married Aileen R. McDaniel on June 9, 1934, in Goodland.

Mr. Williams worked in the farming industry, settling down in Bird City in western Kansas to raise a family. In 1937, a crop of wheat was ready to harvest, when black clouds of change boiled up across the Kansas prairie, and a hailstorm took away their hopes of a harvest. Without an income and the Dust Bowl Depression dashing the hopes of much of America, they set out to the west.

They lived in Bird City until 1940, when they moved to LaGrande, Ore. In September of 1940, they moved to Springfield, Ore. where they lived for 57 years. They moved to Forest Grove, Ore., in June, 1997.

After moving to Oregon, he worked for Georgia Pacific Lumber Co., and later, the Rosboro Lumber Co. as a plywood panel patcher until 1980, when he retired.

He belonged to the Forest Grove Gospel Hall, where he had served as an elder.

He enjoyed music, playing the guitar and five-string banjo and singing bluegrass songs.

His brother, Robert Williams, preceded him in death.

He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Aileen R. Williams, of the family home in Forest Grove; his daughters, Janice I. Singleton of Cornelius, Ore.; Donna M Goff and Ruth J. Williams, both of Forest Grove and Kathy Timonen of Hillsboro, Ore.; his son, Larry E. Williams, of Temecula, Calif.; his sister, Mary Hostynek of Forest Grove, 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorial contributions to a charity that feeds the soul as well as the body of those in need.

## Vada Leach

Nov. 23, 1927 - April 10, 2008  
Vada Leach was born to Homer and Della Beeson on Nov. 23, 1927, in Bird City, Kan. and died on April 10, 2008, at Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis, Kan.

Preceding Vada in death were her parents; sister, Myrtle How-

ell; brother, Elmer Beeson; sister-in-law, Darlyne Beeson; and two brothers-in-law, Harold Edmonds and Bob Howell.

Surviving her are husband, Bill; sister Ona Edmonds; sons and daughters: grandchildren and great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews and many friends.

Vada grew up on a farm northwest of Bird City. She went to grade school at Green Ridge School District 8. After completing Cheyenne County Assessments, she went on to attend and graduate from Bird City High School in 1946. Following high school, she went to work in a grocery store for her sister and brother-in-law, Bob and Myrtle Howell in St. Francis.

On April 30, 1947, Vada married her neighborhood boyfriend, William W. Leach. This marriage continued up to 20-days short of 61 years. Vada and Bill were blessed with two daughters and two sons: Deloris and Warren Sager of LaCrosse, Janice and Gary Baldwin of Cleveland, Tenn., Gary and Merilie Leach of Bird City, and Dexter and Patti Leach of Minneola.

Vada enjoyed 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She spent countless hours working on quilts and afghans which have become treasures for everyone.

She was an active member in the Wesleyan Church at St. Francis, being a treasurer for many years. Upon the St. Francis church closing, she continued her spiritual service at the Wesleyan Church in Bird City.

Vada also served others by being involved in emergency medical services for 8 years and was a generous blood donor to the American Red Cross. She felt a strong commitment to the American League Auxiliary serving as treasurer and working in other capacities for many years. She served faithfully each year at the Kansas Day celebrations and the Antique Engine Show.

Vada enjoyed sewing, knitting and quilting. She loved having a pretty yard and was known for her "Better Homes and Gardens" yard in the country. For many years she enjoyed bowling and the friendships that developed through those activities.

Vada was known for her hospitality and willingness to open her home to anyone and provide a meal especially for them.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cheyenne County Hospital, St. Francis Good Samaritan Village, and the Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

Funeral services were held April 14 at the Wesleyan Church in Bird City with Pastor Dan Carson presiding over the services.

Interment was at the Bird City Cemetery.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.



BABY RABBIT — Mariah and Martin Beikman play with a rabbit that was given to him by an aunt.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Students inducted into honor society

Jonathan (JD) Hawkins and Mindy Cooper of St. Francis are among the 17 Northwest Kansas Technical College students who were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. This is America's highest award for excellence in career and technical education.



Cooper



Hawkins

The students were chosen for membership based on the student's grade point average of 3.0 or above, a good academic standing, good attendance, eligibility for graduation in the current school year, and faculty recommendation. Instructors may nominate up to 10 percent of the graduating class. Qualifications also include the de-

sire to pursue a career in their field of study, the student's dependability and leadership qualities.

Hawkins was in the engineering technology program and Cooper in the medical assistant program.

An induction ceremony was held in the Student Union on April 15.

## Book Review

Book review from St. Francis Public Library

### The Rising

By Kristin Hannah

Marilena Carpathia has only one dream, to be a mother. So when a mysterious clairvoyant promises the fulfillment of this dream, Marilena does not hesitate. Through genetic engineering and the power of the price of darkness himself, Marilena is about to become a chosen vessel, one who will unknowingly give birth to the greatest evil the world has ever known.

Halfway around the world, God's plans are subtly being carried out too. Young Ray Steele is determined to avoid one day taking over the family business. Instead, Ray sets his heart on becoming a pilot...

Soon Carpathia's and Steele's lives will intersect. And good and evil will clash in an explosion that will shake the world.

The eternal battle for souls has come to earth. The world hurtles toward the countdown to the Rapture.

The Rising is the first book in the Countdown to the Rapture.

## Learn more about the health benefits of Bariatric Weight Loss Surgery

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- Decreased medications associated with weight related diseases

FREE Informational Seminar

Monday, May 5, 2008

Individual Consult 6:15 pm

Program 6:30 pm

If you are wondering if you should consider bariatric surgery, make plans now to attend this informational seminar. Dr. Zurab Tsereteli, Bariatric Surgeon, will discuss the procedure. The program will include general information on qualifying for surgery, an overall description of the lifestyle changes that are necessary following surgery, plus information on the insurance process. This informational session is **REQUIRED** for anyone considering Bariatric Surgery at Hays Medical Center.

Registration is required. Call 785-623-5945.



BARIATRIC SURGERY  
At Hays Medical Center

## Career Intern Program-Farm Loan Officer

Farm Service Agency (FSA) U.S. Dept of Agriculture (USDA) seeks a **Farm Loan Officer** candidate through Career Intern Program (CIP).. Duties include making, servicing, supervising agricultural loans.

Application packets, position description and salary range can be obtained from:

Patty Eckhardt  
Farm Loan Manager  
210 W. 10th  
Goodland, KS. 67735  
(785) 899-3070

Complete applications must be received at the above location no later than 4:00 p.m. MT 5-20-08. FSA is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

## Introducing

### Elizabeth Marie Meyer

Elizabeth Marie Meyer was born April 10, 2008. Parents are Pastor Ryan and Dr. Cathy Meyer of Tobias, Neb.

Grandparents are Rod and Peggy Meyer of Lincoln, Ill. Great-grandparents are B.A. and Annabelle Prater of Hopedale, Ill., and great-great-grandparent is Helen Peter.



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