

## Governor's vetoes stick to get one power plant

Now that the legislative session is over, and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius apparently has made her vetoes stick, isn't it about time to get everyone together and come up with a compromise that would get at least one power plant built in Kansas?

The governor offered a one-plant compromise earlier this year, but proponents apparently thought they'd prevail either in the Legislature or in court. They claimed one plant couldn't be financed, that they had to have two.

So far, though, they have none.

Here's a plan: Take the governor up on her offer. Write a plan to build one plant at Holcomb, alongside Sunflower Electric Power Corp.'s existing station. Get a permit to build it, and then wait for the lawsuits that are sure to come. (Sunflower quietly announced a delay in building the second plant earlier this month anyway.)

That would get the process moving for at least one unit moving forward. Our betting is that financing would be there, because the Colorado, Texas and, yes, Kansas rural electric cooperatives backing the plant need the power. They say they need it pretty bad.

And in that case, half a loaf would be a whole lot more kilowatts than none.

Kansas, the rural West and the nation are going to need a lot of power in the next 10 years. Probably, the need is there for both Holcomb plants, maybe even a third one already dropped, but for sure, one plant will pay its bills.

And we should be prepared to build one plant, especially one that would be the cleanest coal-fired plant in the state.

Why coal?

Because switching to natural gas would drive up the cost of the power a lot faster than coal, for one thing. Because coal is available and the plant could be built far faster than a nuclear plant, even another coal plant.

While the governor wants to push wind power — and that is a good idea — wind can't be depended on to carry the "base load," the demand when the wind is not blowing and the sun isn't shining. Other technologies are years away.

Nuclear, though enjoying a revival in popularity, has the same problems it always had: risk, waste, permanent pollution of the earth's surface. Do we really want to go back to that?

No nuclear plant has been built in the U.S. in more than 25 years, and it'd take darn near that long to get one going and built. Prices could be \$6 billion to \$8 billion a plant.

So coal if what we're stuck with, the Holcomb plant is about the best choice we have. It'd create 100 or more jobs in western Kansas and ensure our power supply for years to come.

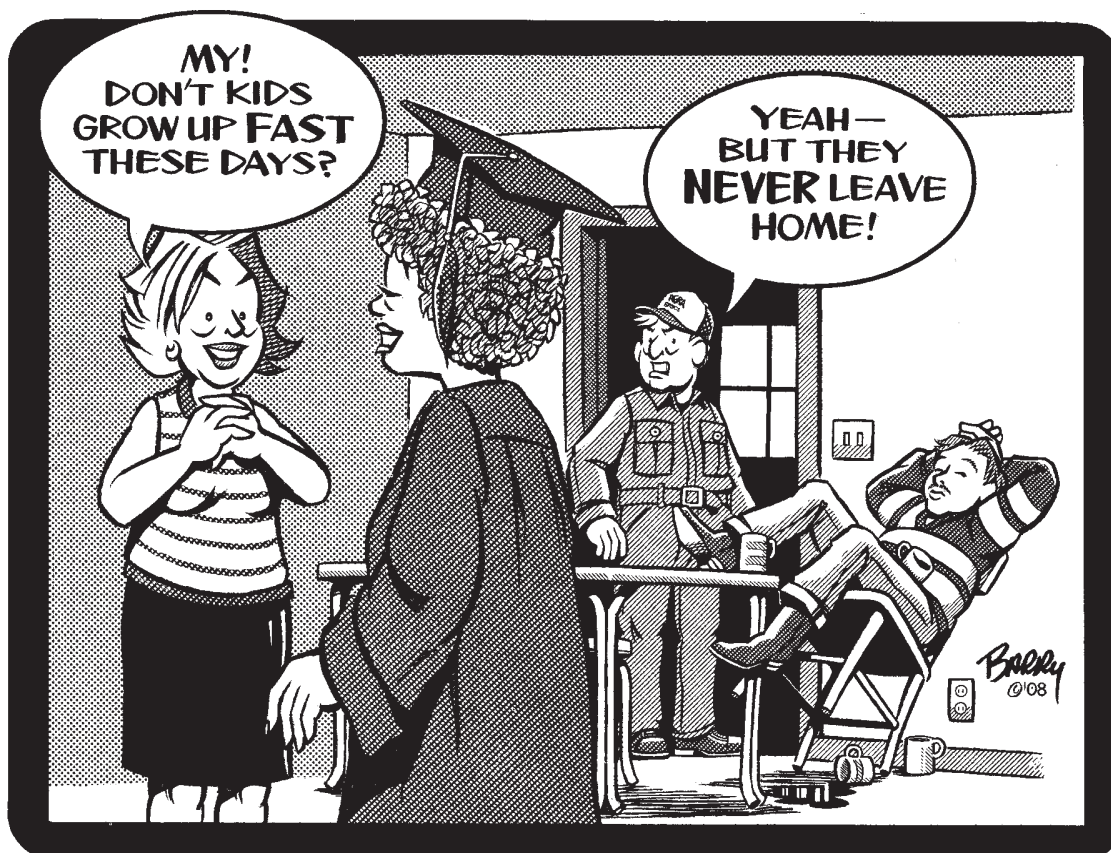
And by the time a single plant is built, it'll be time to ask for another. We'll bet on that.

Sure, most of the power will be exported at first. So are the cars, grain and airplanes Kansas makes. This is about jobs as well as power, and the governor ought to recognize that.

Western Kansas needs those jobs.

Compromise may not be anyone's first choice, but it'd be a lot better than building no plants, wouldn't it? Sunflower ought to consider that, because the world will need the power.

— Steve Haynes



## News From the Past

### 15 years ago - 1993

Members of the Bird City Four Circle Co-op met at the Legion hall to discuss the fate of the business. The membership approved 70 to 15 to accept the board's liquidation plans to sell the facility to the Goodland Cooperative Equity Exchange.

David Morrow, president of the class of 1993, will be presenting the Senior Farewell at the graduation ceremony. J.W. Milliken, senior vice president, will also be giving a talk. Senior Chad Miller will be presenting a musical selection.

The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce has a new office on the bottom floor in the southwest corner of the courthouse. The office was formerly at the Cheyenne County Museum.

St. Francis has a new postmaster. Annette Miller was sworn in on May 17, her first day at the St. Francis facility. She comes to St. Francis from Selden.

Jenny Cassidy, Kelly Renk, Sara Schultz, Mercedes Rondono, Chris Lampe, Jason Applegate and members of the girls 1600-meter relay team, Genella Wolfe, Leigh Faulkender, Kayla Raile and Renk, have qualified for the State track meet. Relay alternates are Cassidy and Rhonda Murphy.

### 40 years ago - 1968

In recognition of the formation of the United Methodist Church out of the former Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist denominations a "handshake ceremony" was observed at First Methodist, Lawn Ridge Methodist and the First EUB Church on Sunday morning.

Dr. D.M. Fair was elected president-elect of the Kansas Chiropractors Association. He will assume the duties of president of the association next year at this time.

Jim Jones of St. Francis was named president of the Kansas US Highway 36 Association. Another St. Francis resident Harold Couse was named secretary/treasurer.

Baccalaureate services for 59 St. Francis high school seniors will be on May 12. Graduation is on May 15. At graduation the invocation will be given by Roger Jensen and there will be senior talks by Bill Keller, Tom Kite and Linda Floyd. Musical numbers will be given by Myra Northrup and Rita Canniff. The senior response will be given by Forrest Crum, class president, and Marvin Raile will give the benediction.

### 50 years ago - 1958

St. Francis was one of 23 FFA chapters in Kansas receiving the Gold Emblem classification at the annual convention in Manhattan.

The signal for immediate tornado danger in the city will be sounding of the city whistle. The signal will be two 15-second blasts followed by a 15 second pause then two more 15 second blasts. Later in the month the signal was changed to a continuous sounding of the whistle as residents confused the earlier signal for a fire alarm.

Merle Mills, son of Mr. and

Mrs. Marvin Mills, has accompanied 19 heifer calves to Germany as part of the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief Program.

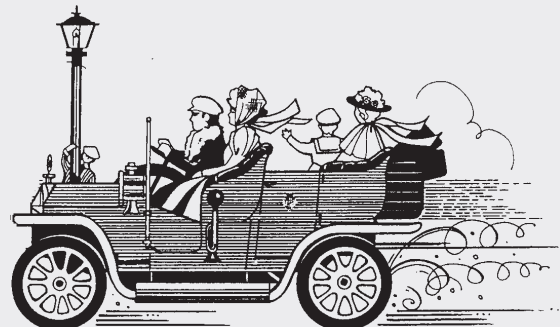
There are 41 members in the St. Francis Community High School graduation class. The theme for the commencement exercises is "The Best Way To Never Fail Is To Determine To Succeed." Speeches will be given by Maureen Stewart, Darrell Biggs and Ruth Zwegardt.

Gordon Smith has been hired to operate the St. Francis Swimming Pool for the summer. Assistants and life guards are Junior Zimbelman and Wayne Kemp.

### 75 years ago - 1933

"Rainbow" was the theme of the decorations and program for the junior-senior banquet held at the high school on May 1. Dale Duncan, president of the junior class was the toastmaster. Speeches were given by Jern Dowling, Mildred White, L.D. Halley, Blanche Burchett, Lorraine Laird, G.E. Greene and Argyle Price. Thelma Walters and Hollis Barnhouse played a violin duet, accompanied by Marion Dunn.

A.A. Gillispie, publisher of the St. Francis Herald, was officially inaugurated as new city mayor at the city council meeting. He succeeds former mayor, R.M. Roberts.



## Hangin' With Marge

### New Lift

By Margaret Bucholtz



The other day we were having company coming so I tried to get the yard, house and everything else cleaned up a little.

The last thing on the list was to clean out the pots and pans cupboard. I store them in one of the bottom cupboards and I keep telling Kurt that I need to have some kind of drawers so I can pull them out. He just kind of mumbles

"sure" and goes on. That part always needs straightening out, I tend to throw the pans in there and hurry and shut the door. Sometimes it won't stay shut, then it's time to get on the floor and clean.

That day I was a little tired and when I sat down to straighten it up I said, "Kurt one of these days I am not going to be able to get up and you won't be able to lift me.

What are your plans?" He glanced at me and said, "I'll just go over the shop and get the cherry picker and lift you with that."

I guess that would be better than to just sitting there, however I can't imagine what the EMT is going to think when they respond and this old lady is hanging off of the cherry picker.

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



Recently I got to enjoy two great examples of Americana; Elvis and Mother's Day.

Elvis's life is a true American story. Born poor in the deep South, he became forever linked to the birth of Rock and Roll, strongly influenced Country music and recorded some of the most beautiful Gospel melodies of all time.

But his trademark sideburns, large sunglasses and big collared and bejeweled jumpsuits were recognized the world around.

At last weekend's Car Show, Endre Sumu honored the "King" well with two performances. It took little imagination to know that "Elvis was in the house."

Thank goodness mothers are not unique to this country. However, Mother's Day is and it arrived last Sunday.

Anna Jarvis came up with the

idea to have a day to celebrate moms 100 years ago.

On the second Sunday of May, 1908, the tradition began with 500 white carnations handed out to mothers at a church service in West Virginia. President Woodrow Wilson made it a federal holiday in 1914.

In addition, I have a special and personal reason that ties Elvis and Mother's Day together, since my mother and Elvis share the same birthday. Susan Kay McIntyre and Elvis Aaron Presley both entered the United States on Jan. 8, 1935.

How's that for a little bit of Americana?

## Honor Roll

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GOD SAYS I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. Proverbs 8:17

The Saint Francis Herald (USPS 475-960) A Century of Service to Cheyenne County P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050 Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices. Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association. Subscriptions: One year \$33 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$38 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$42 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$25 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

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