

# Obituaries

## Martha Louise Emile Schirmer Zwegardt

March 2, 1916 - Aug. 22, 2011

Martha Louise Zwegardt was born March 2, 1916, on the farm in the Jaqua community where her grandfather Fred Wilkening had homesteaded. She was the oldest of Wilhelm and Marie Schirmer's five children.

Her childhood was filled with hard work on the farm and caring for her younger brothers and sisters. She started her schooling at Pleasant Hill school. It was at this school where she began to learn English. German was her parent's language and it was the language spoken in their home.

When Zion Lutheran parochial school was opened in 1922, she finished her schooling there. Schoolwork was taught in English at this school and the religious studies were taught in German. Martha's bilingual skills were outstanding and she was often asked to interpret German both orally and in writing her entire life. Many families in St. Francis appreciated her skills when they wanted German family letters or documents read.

Martha had a keen memory of her childhood. She loved to share stories about the horse and buggy rides and walking with the neighborhood children when they went to and from school.

Martha worked in the homes of Pastors Jungck, A.L. Hoemann, and T. Kreuger. She also worked in the H.T. Sawhill home and Rudy Rueb home prior to her marriage.

She was known for her cleanliness in housekeeping and for her excellent care of children. She remained a friend of these children all of her life and always was interested in their lives and their families.

On April 20, 1939, Martha married Gus Zwegardt and became a farm wife. Once again, her high standards of cleanliness

proved to be important as she had loyal customers who valued her cream and eggs. For many years she faithfully delivered farm fresh eggs and cream weekly to many St. Francis families.

Gus and Martha started farming on the Gottfried Rath farm northwest of St. Francis. Their children, Ruth and Glenn, were born while they were living on this farm. Following World War II and the death of Gus's brother, Oscar, they moved to the L.E. Zwegardt farm north of St. Francis. They lived on this farm for 27 years.

They had a diversified farming operation which included crops, cattle, pigs and chickens. Martha always raised chickens and an extensive garden. She loved flowers and had a lovely flower garden on the south side of their farmhouse. She was among the first in the area to grow a lawn along with her flowers. The Kansas "Balanced Farming and Family Living" award was presented to Martha and Gus in 1959.

Martha began quilting as a young girl and she continued to enjoy quilting all of her life. Since she kept an accurate count of the number of quilts she had quilted, it is known she completed 126 quilts. Many families in St. Francis plus her children and grandchildren have quilts that were made by her. One of her quilts is displayed at the Cheyenne County Museum.

Martha was baptized, confirmed and married at the Zion Evangelical Missouri Synod Lutheran Church in the Jacqua community. After her marriage she became a member of Salem Lutheran Church. She was a charter member of the Salem Women's Missionary Society which started in 1941. She was very proud of her many years of membership. Through the years,

she served in most of the offices and was sending cards and letters to the ill and homebound for this group until she entered the nursing home. Martha taught Sunday School at Salem for 33 years.

She was a member of the Farmeretts Extension Unit and served on the Extension Board. Martha and Gus were active Plum Creek 4-H parents. In 1959, Gus and Martha were host parents to an exchange student from Nepal for 6 weeks.

Martha and Gus enjoyed many friends and neighbors in Cheyenne County over the years. Special events such as birthdays and anniversaries were always filled with many cards and letters from these friends.

Martha was preceded in death by her husband, Gus, her parents, two sisters, Vanida Eichstadt and Anne Klemm, a brother Henry Schirmer, and granddaughter, Charise Zwegardt.

Survivors include her children Ruth and Jack Britton of Mission, Kan.; Glenn Zwegardt of Alfred, N.Y.; grandchildren, Susan and John Britton, Rena Mack and Shane Zwegardt; five great-grandchildren and a sister, Erna Blume of Goodland.

Funeral services were held at Salem Lutheran Church on August 26. Casket bearers were John Britton, Tracey Galli, Royce Gienger, Chris McQuigg, Roger Orth, Keith Zwegardt, Kim Underwood and Roger Blume. Burial was in the Salem Lutheran Cemetery. Memorials may be given to Salem Lutheran Church or to the charity of your choice.

Martha's life was one of hard work, endurance and faithfulness. Truly, God will proclaim "Well done, thy good and faithful servant."

granddaughter, Sylvie Robinson of Colorado Springs; a brother-in-law, Jack Wieser and Jill of Safford, Ariz., and sisters-in-law, Lois Sutherland of Des Moines, Iowa, and Viola Jones of Sharon Springs, Kan. She also leaves behind a great number of nephews, nieces, cousins and many extended family and friends.

The funeral service was held on Aug. 27 at the United Methodist Church, St. Francis, with Rev. Joe Cico officiating. Honorary pallbearers were Everett Cranmer Jr., Roger Wieser, Dean Wieser, Gaylen Schauer, Harold Madson and Lanny DeGood. Casket bearers were Stan Orth, Steve Orth, Tom Bandel, Justin Gardner, Chester Wieser Jr. and Verlin Schauer.

Burial was in the St. Francis Cemetery. Memorials can be sent to the St. Francis United Methodist Church or the St. Francis Senior Citizens Center. Condolences may be sent to the family in care of Knodel Funeral Home, Box 606, St. Francis, KS.

brothers, Elroy and wife Linda of Texas, Danny and wife Martha of St. Francis; one sister-in-law, Lavon Schlittenhardt of St. Francis. She is also survived by nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews too numerous to mention.

She was a member of the Christian Church and the American Legion.

Her wish to be cremated was honored with graveside services to be held Saturday, Sept. 3 at 2 p.m. at the St. Francis Cemetery. Devin Rohweder, a great-nephew, will officiate at the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the St. Francis Senior Center or the Christian Church of St. Francis.

## Beryl Lucy Smull

March 2, 1912 - Aug. 28, 2011

Beryl Lucy Gardner was born March 2, 1912, in Great Bend and died Aug. 28, 2011, at Prairie Manor Good Samaritan Home in Sharon Springs. Her life was defined by love of faith, family and friends, expressed through homemaking, parenting, music, teaching and learning.

Avery Gardner, her father, was a dentist and her mother, Blanche, taught piano. She and her brother, George Gardner, and sister, Gertrude Kennedy, performed with her parents as an ensemble during services of First Methodist Church in Great Bend. Beryl played cello and piano. She remained a member of Methodist churches all her life.

She attended Emporia State Teachers College and graduated from college at Hays with a bachelor's degree in music education. While completing her education she started and wrote arrangements for a vocal quartet which performed on radio and at events throughout Kansas.

She taught at an elementary school in Pawnee before accepting a position in St. Francis, teaching elementary music. There she met Ralph Smull and after a whirlwind courtship rode in an open-cockpit biplane to Oglalla,

Neb., where Ralph was working on a construction project, to get married. Their first home was a converted chicken coop on a farm south of St. Francis now owned by Keith McCall. They soon purchased property from George Schmidt, a mile west and north of the Lawn Ridge Church. Beryl became involved in church activities at Lawn Ridge and later, after the congregation moved, in St. Francis. She played piano for services, taught Sunday school and vacation Bible school and was also active in Home Demonstration Unit and 4-H. She occasionally performed with local string ensembles and gave private piano lessons.

Ralph died in 1973. Of her five children, one survives; Willits (Bill) of Tacoma, Wash. Also surviving are six grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Predeceasing her were a son, Donald, daughters Carolyn, Elizabeth (Betty) and Judy, and a great-grandson, Talon Smull.

Soon after Judy died at birth in 1951, Beryl resumed teaching, first at a rural school in north Sherman County, then in Cheyenne County at Sunnyside, Lawn Ridge and Wheeler.

## Ned A. Wolbach

Nov. 17, 1939 - Aug. 27, 2011

Ned A. Wolbach, 71, died Saturday, Aug. 27, 2011, at the Swedish Hospital in Denver, Colo. He was born Nov. 17, 1939, to Argyle and Doris Wolbach in St. Francis, Kan.

As a young man, he followed in the footsteps of his uncles to be a truck driver. He drove for several different truck lines for 48 years. The last six years of his life, he was a security guard for Goodland Energy, Goodland, Kan.

On April 29, 1961, Ned married Anne Hukill in Denver. They had two children, Kevin Ned and Annetta Marie. He was also blessed with three step-children, Jerry, Debbie and Joanie Hukill.

On Nov. 29, 1974, Ned married Lois Weber. He welcomed two step-children, Laura Richardson and Kevin Hanum. In his spare time, he enjoyed fishing, camping, playing horseshoes and spit-shinning his truck. He also loved being "Papa" to 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Ned is survived by his wife, Lois; children, Kevin Wolbach of Otis, Colo., and Annetta Rieber and Skip of Burlington, Colo.; stepchildren, Jerry Hukill and

Debbie Mathews of Goodland, Laura Richardson and Jeff and Kevin Hanum and Amy of Greeley, Colo.; 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, who he loved dearly; mother and stepfather, Doris and Norris Anderson of St. Francis, and sister, Sherry Weeks and Dale of St. Francis as well as a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his stepdaughter, Joanie Hukill.

The funeral service will be held on Thursday, Sept. 1, at the First Baptist Church in St. Francis. Burial will be at a later date in the St. Francis Cemetery.

# 4-H state livestock judging contest held in Manhattan

The Kansas State Livestock Judging Contest was held in Manhattan on Aug. 20 and 21. The Cheyenne County 4-H team made the trip to Manhattan to compete in the state contest.

There were 165 kids that made up 35 teams from across the state competing. The contest was made up of eight classes: four cattle, two sheep and two hog classes. Participants then gave four sets of reasons to defend their placings.

The Cheyenne County team placed fourth in the sheep division, 11th in reasons and 15th overall in the contest.

Individually, Laura Brunk was fourth high individual in the sheep division and Taylor Archibald was 13th overall in reasons.

Members of the 2011 team include: Taylor Archibald, Shakotah Blanka, Laura Brunk, Garrett Brunk, Emily Elfers, Allison Grice, Ivan Kemp, Bailey Merklin and Valerie Wurm.

The judging team will take some time off then continue workouts this winter to prepare for the Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic held in Kearney, NE in late February.

Please contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 if interested in becoming involved with the 2012 4-H Livestock Judging Team.



Laura Brunk judges livestock at the state competition.

## Club Clip

which is one of the Eight Wonders of Kansas Architecture. This barn was formerly known as the Foster Farm barn and is the largest barn in Kansas, measuring 66-feet wide, 114-feet long and 48-foot high. The barn built in 1936, was moved 16 miles in one piece, in 1992 to become part of the museum.

To complete the hamlet are: 1930s farmstead of the Eller house, Vacin barn, Nicol School, sod home and Lone Star Church.

A relaxing lunch was enjoyed at Village Inn. The humorous reading chairwoman, Phyllis Wingfield, read the story "A few of our favorite things."

Acting Queen, Beverly Higgins, presented Vernetta Haack with a

red hat framed music box in honor of her being selected the 2011 Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show queen.

Attending were: Florence Antholz, Bonnie Burr, Linda Carroll, Vernetta Haack, Bev Higgins, Iris McIntosh, Carol Mears, Lois Morelock, Edna Roesener, Connie Rooney, LaVina Waters, Phyllis Wingfield and guest Betty Weaver.

On Saturday, Bonnie, Vernetta, Bev, Iris, Carol, LaVina and Phyllis accepted the invitation to attend the annual ladies brunch at Bird City Wesley Community Church.

Kim Zwegardt movingly narrated "The Woman at the Well."

Bonnie and Connie will announce September meeting plans.

## Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library

### Hannah's List

By Debbie Macomber

On the anniversary of his beloved wife's death, Dr. Michael Everett receives a letter Hannah had written him.

In it she reminds him of her love and makes one final request. An impossible request- I want you to marry again. She tells him he shouldn't spend the years he has left grieving her. And to that end she's chosen three women she asks him to consider.

First on Hannah's list is her cousin, Winter Adams, a trained chef who owns a cafe on Seattle's Blossom Street. The second is Leanne Lancaster, Hannah's oncology nurse. Michael knows them both. But the third name is one he's not familiar with-Macy Roth.

Each of these three women has her own heartache, her own private grief. More than a year earlier, Winter broke of her relationship with another chef. Leanne is divorced from a man who defrauded the hospital for which she works. And Macy lacks

family of her own, the family she craves, but she's a rescue of strays, human and animal. Macy is energetic, artistic, eccentric-and couldn't be more different from Michael.

During the months that follow, he spends time with Winter, Leanne and Macy, learning more about each of them...and about himself. Learning what Hannah already knew. He's a man who needs the completeness only love can offer. And Hannah's list leads him to the woman who can help him find it.