



Harvey County News

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SPRING 2015

UPCOMING DATES

Courthouse

Closed:

April 3—1/2 day
May 25

Easter Egg Hunt:

West Park
April 3

Baby Behavior

Class:

1st & 3rd Mondays

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

People in the background 2

Remembering Kurt Ford 3

Constant change 3

Calendar 4

Sheriff tales

By Sheriff T. Walton

My parents were born and raised in New York City. After my father came back from the war (WWII), they moved to suburbia, Long Island. It was on Long Island that I was born and raised. My grandfather was a New York City policeman, joining the force in 1919. His stories of the street never got old for me as I grew up. I too wanted to be like him, a police officer. My grandfather, however, did not want to see me become a police officer in New York City. He knew the dangers in the profession, he was shot while in the line of duty and he didn't want to see me follow in those footsteps.

I came out to Kansas to attend college. I studied religion and philosophy and the prospects of going into law enforcement were somewhat dimmed with other career choices. Although dimmed, but never extinguished, the thoughts of being a police officer remained within me.

An opportunity presented itself to me in the early 80's, a chance to become a Newton Police reserve officer. The path opened up and I was law enforcement-bound. By 1988,

I was a sworn police officer for the City of Newton. I truly did want to help the people I served and protect those that were not capable of protecting themselves. By 1994 I became a detective for the Po-



lice Department. I learned to deal with all kind of criminal cases — from homicides to sexual assaults, drive by shootings, embezzlements, undercover drug investigations — the full gambit of criminal activity. Along the way I was promoted to sergeant and lieutenant. I was able to assemble various task forces, drug task force, child pornography task force and the Heart to Heart Child Advocacy Center. Throughout my investiga-

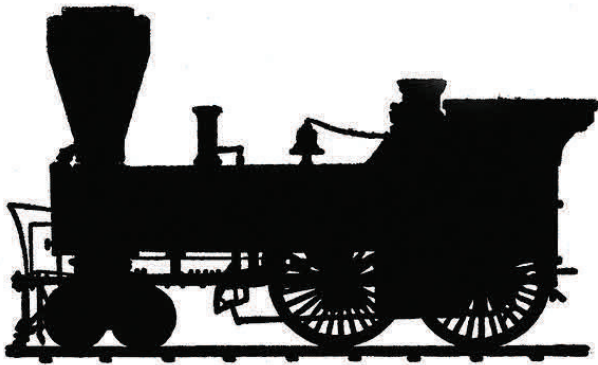
tions career with the Newton Police Department I had a partner, Todd Hanchett. He was a crime scene guru and I was an interview and interrogation pro. As a team we solved hundreds of crimes for the City of Newton.

I had often thought that to make my career complete, I would like to someday be Sheriff of Harvey County. In 2008, after putting 20 years in with the Newton Police Department, I put my name in the hat for a run as sheriff. I was elected and took office in January of 2009. As sheriff, I could bring with me an under-sheriff. My choice, of course, was my partner from Newton PD, Todd Hanchett. Between the two of us and the Sheriff's administration, many positive changes have been made in the Harvey County Sheriff's Office. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Harvey County Sheriff.

On my wall in my office is a framed document, my grandfather's certification from 1919 as a patrolman of the police force of New York City. I can't help but think he has been watching over me throughout my career and proud of the accomplishments I have made.

The people in the background

Kristine Schmucker, Harvey County Historical Museum



**“The fast train
which was
running a
double header
went into the
drifted freight
causing the
engineer to be
severely
injured.”**

Sometimes research can bring unexpected stories about past Harvey County residents.

Businessman R.A. Goerz and his wife Martha are well known in Harvey County history (Goerz Mill), but what about their maid? What was her story? The 1887 Directory listed Miss Annie S. Andes, Miss Susie Andes & Miss Winnie Andes as “domestics.” How did three unmarried sisters come to be living and working in Newton, and what happened in their lives going forward?

In approximately 1884 the Andes family moved from Ephrata, PA to Newton. The father, Levi Andes, was a tailor and an Old Order Brethren minister. The Andes family also included wife Susan, daughters Lizzie, Annie S., Susie, Lovenia “Winnie” and Alice and sons Wilton and Jacob. Jacob seems to have died soon after the family’s arrival in Kansas. Levi continued to work as a tailor in Newton. Levi built the family home located at 410 E. Second St., Newton.

For several years, the three sisters, Annie, Susie

and Winnie worked as domestics, likely cleaning and cooking in Newton’s wealthier homes before marrying and no longer working outside of the home. Winnie married Thomas Greer in the spring of 1888. Susie married Robert B. Slayton in January 1890, with no other information found. Lizzie married Edwin F. Lehman in March 1891. Both Winnie and Lizzie remained in Harvey County throughout their married lives.

Annie married James G. Romig in March 1893. Her father, Levi Andes, conducted the ceremony. Romig was born in Cedar County, Iowa, March 1866 and began working for the Santa Fe Railroad in 1885. He started “at the bottom of the ladder as a wiper, gradually climbing by means of conscientious work and real ability to the high place in his work” as an engineer. At the turn of the century he was “so thoroughly master of his engine that it was he that was the most often called when any through specials were to be taken over the line at an unusual speed and an expert was needed.” By 1905, the couple had two children, James L. (c. 1895) and Carrie C (c. 1897), and were living at 410 E. Second St., in the house built by Annie’s father.

In February 1905 tragedy struck the Romig family. The *Newton Evening Kansas-Republican*, Feb. 13, 1905, carried the story of a “Wreck on Santa Fe.” According to the article, a collision occurred when local freight number 13 was stuck in a snow drift five miles east

of Walton. Somehow this message did not get to the train with Engineer Romig on it, perhaps due to blowing snow which led to low visibility, or an error in communications between dispatcher and conductor. The article went on to note, “the fast train which was running a double header went into the drifted freight causing the engineer — to be severely injured.” Romig was found unconscious with a severe wound to his leg and a great deal of blood loss. The paper further noted that he was “obliged to endure the exposure until the wreckage was cleared away” and he could be freed. He was taken to his home around 10 p.m. The Feb. 14, 1905, *Newton Evening Kansas-Republican* had further details about the accident, noting that the engineer had been caught between the cab and the tender and could hear the hiss of escaping steam. Romig knew he was in danger of being scalded and in the frantic effort to get loose “the muscles in the calf of his leg were torn and an artery severed.” He did eventually get loose. The article concludes by noting “his experience was indeed an awful one and his friends will be glad if he comes out of it with nothing more serious than a badly bruised leg.” The next day, Romig had not improved and was sent to a Topeka hospital to get better care. His brother-in-law Will Andes went with

Continued on pg. 3

Background

Continued from pg. 2

him. Despite reports that Romig had survived the trip to the Topeka hospital, he died at 7:15 a.m. on Feb. 16, 1905. James G. Romig had worked for the Santa Fe Railroad for 20 years and was 39 years old.

Annie was widowed with two young children, James (10) and Carrie (8). She continued to live at

her home on 410 E. Second, and it is not clear how she supported herself and young children. In 1939, she moved to San Diego to live closer to her daughters, Carrie and Alice. She died Nov. 28, 1949 at her daughter's home in San Diego. Her obituary noted that she was survived by two daughters, Carrie,

who had not married, and Alice (Romig) Nevitt; and one son, James Romig.

Sometimes following the story of the people behind the scenes can lead to a fascinating glimpse of ordinary lives. Harvey County has many tales to tell.

**“His
experience
was indeed an
awful one...”**

Remembering Kurt Ford

Ten years ago, on April 9, 2005, Harvey County Deputy Sheriff Kurt Ford was shot and killed while conducting a forced entry during a hostage situation.

The situation on that day stemmed from a domestic disturbance. Deputy Ford and other members of the Harvey County Emergency Response Team responded to the scene. When they arrived at the home, the male subject, Gregory Moore, took a female subject hostage. Three hours into the standoff Moore started attacking the hostage. The ERT team made a forced entry into the home and was met with

gunfire from the suspect, who was armed with two handguns.

Ford, 38, a member of the Harvey County Emergency Response Team, was the first officer to enter. He was shot and killed and Hesston Police Detective Chris Eilert was shot and wounded during the raid of the house.

The suspect gave himself up to authorities five hours later. Moore, a convicted felon, had a history of domestic violence reports at his home. Police later found multiple weapons at the scene. The man was convicted of capital murder on June 28, 2006. He was sentenced to life in pris-

on.

Ford began his career in law enforcement as a reserve officer for the Newton Police Department. He started working for the Sheriff's Office in 1988 as a jailer, left the Sheriff's Office in 1997 and returned in 2005 as a deputy. He was Hesston Police chief from 1997 to 2001, when he resigned to take a non-law enforcement job in Colorado. He then worked for the Douglas County (Colo.) Sheriff's Office, but returned to Kansas as a deputy for the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office, before coming back to Harvey County.



**To leave
messages for
Kurt's family
and friends,
please visit
Officer Down
Memorial Page
at odmp.org**

Constant change at Harvey County

By John Waltner

Perhaps many of you have heard of Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher who lived some time before Socrates. Heraclitus is known for his attention to change. “The only thing that is constant is change,” he wrote. He also once famously said, “No man ever steps in the same river twice.” Change.

Heraclitus was absolutely right about change. All of us in the courthouse family are keenly aware of change in our lives — unsightly piles of dirt on the

courthouse lawn, bare ceilings with a jumble of hanging cables and light fixtures, hammer drills echoing throughout the building, and a fine layer of dust nearly everywhere.

Change is with us always and we continually adjust. But all change is not equal — some changes are deeper, more challenging, and more profound.

Those of us working in local government in Kansas are truly facing uncharted waters. We know that the fiscal challenges

at the state level — and, most certainly, eventually at our level — are unprecedented. But in the midst of all the change, the unpredictability and challenges we face, some things in our organization will remain constant. Our commitment to our core values and competencies will simply not waver. Change might remain constant, but so will the high quality service we provide the citizens of Harvey County. Some things will remain the same.

**“The only
thing that is
constant is
change.”
-Heraclitus**

April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Courthouse closed 1/2 day	4 Easter Egg Hunt 3 p.m. West Park
5	6 Commission Meeting Blood pressure checks 10 a.m. Grand Central Baby Behavior Class 4 p.m. Health Dept.	7	8	9	10	11 HVCO Kid Fest 10 a.m.—1 p.m. Sunset Elementary Fire Side Chat 7 p.m. East Park
12	13 Commission Meeting	14	15	16	17 Crappy Tourna- ment West Park Lake Side Shelter	18 Crappy Tourna- ment West Park Lake Side Shelter Jam Night W. Park 7 p.m. Comm. Bldg.
19 Crappy Tournament West Park Lake Side Shelter	20 Baby Behavior Class 4 p.m. Health Dept.	21	22	23	24	25 Fire Side Chat 7 p.m. West Park
26	27 Commission Meeting	28	29	30		

May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 Commission Meeting Baby Behavior Class 4 p.m. Blood pressure checks 10 a.m. Grand Central	5	6	7	8	9 Take Mom Camping weekend Fire Side Chat 7 p.m. East Park
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Jam Night W. Park 7 p.m. Comm. Bldg.
17	18 Commission Meeting Baby Behavior Class 11 a.m. Ride your bike to work day	19	20	21	22	23 Fire Side Chat 7 p.m. West Park Musical Potluck East Park Egret Shelter
24/31	25 Courthouse closed	26 Commission Meeting	27	28	29 East Park Kick-Ball Tourney	30 East Park Kick-Ball Tourney

June

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Commission Meeting Baby Behavior Class 4 p.m. Blood pressure checks 10 a.m. Grand Central	2	3	4	5	6 Free Fishing Weekend
7 Free Fishing Weekend	8 Commission Meeting	9	10	11	12	13 Annual Parks C.A.S.T. event East Park movie night Family Fishing Clinic West Park
14	15 Commission Meeting Baby Behavior Class 11 a.m.	16	17	18	19	20 Jam Night W. Park 7 p.m. Comm. Bldg. Take Dad Camping Weekend
21	22 Commission Meeting	23	24	25	26	27 West Park Movie Night
28	29 Commission Meeting	30				