

5-6-88 St. Joseph News Press



Staff photo by TIMOTHY J. JONES

Professor Jim Thompson is retiring after three decades of teaching at Highland Community College.

Career decision paid off for Highland teacher

By ALLEN SEIFERT
News-Press/Gazette Staff Writer

HIGHLAND, Kan. — Twenty-six years ago, Jim Thompson decided it was time to make a career decision.

He was a 37-year-old farmer with a family of four, the skill of a tinker, an interest in chemistry and a voracious appetite for the printed word.

"I just decided I wouldn't make it as a farmer," he says tersely. So autumn found him as a freshman at Peru State College, studying science, particularly chemistry.

Later this spring, Thompson will hang up his laboratory frock

for the last time. After 22 years as an instructor at Highland Community College, he'll finally have time to read some of those books he's wanted to read all these years.

"I graduated from Peru State then I taught four years at Humboldt, Neb., before I learned about this job," he says. "I've enjoyed it. I'll stay here, but I'll finally get to do some reading."

Summoned to Highland from Humboldt, Thompson found his teaching quarters tucked away in the dusty basement of the college Administration Building. The lab needed upgrading. There was little order.

So he used his skill as a tinker to construct — at a fraction of the

cost — much laboratory equipment. A stirrer he constructed, for example, cost the college only \$3. A similar stirrer if purchased from a factory would have cost five times that.

"Twenty-two years is enough," says the man who has served under four college presidents. Seven years ago, his laboratory was moved to the spacious new science and mathematics building, which he says has been a boon to his classes.

There have been other changes.

"Back when I started at Highland, the areas of chemistry and physics were almost for men only. Now we have as many women as men," he says

Twenty-two years ago, would-be engineers were beating down the doors of his laboratory.

"Hardly anybody wants to be an engineer these days — maybe 5 percent of the people who take my classes. I don't know why there's been such a decline. There's much more interest now in the health-related sciences," he says.

If college officials ask him, Thompson says, he'll be available to be a fill-in teacher.

"I suppose I'll miss it (teaching)" he says, "But I still like to tinker with electronics and I like photography. I've never been bored. I don't figure I will be after I retire."



Staff photo by IVAL LAWHON JR.

Jolene Blair is Highland Community College's 26-year-old pitcher-designated hitter.

Highland ball player manages to keep atypical life in balance

By ALLEN SEIFERT

News-Press/Gazette Staff Writer

SENECA, Kan. — Jolene Blair's typical day is typical only for her.

By 7 a.m. the 26-year-old is out of bed and preparing breakfast for her six-year-old daughter Mandy.

That's the easy part.

By 8, she's begun the 42-mile drive to Highland Community College where her first class is at 9:05 a.m. After a day-full of class work — she's carrying 17 hours — she's off to softball practice.

After practice, or a game if the Scotty team is playing, she's back on the road to Seneca where she has a night class.

The next day, it begins all over.

"Getting in shape has been the most difficult part for me," says Blair. "It had been eight years since I played any softball at all. It's been fun, though. I've enjoyed it."

Her softball progress has been slowed by an automobile collision she was involved in late summer. That wreck has also added to her cluttered schedule, since she has a therapy session in Hiawatha one afternoon per week.

"Jolene would probably be playing a great deal more if it hadn't been for her car wreck," says Highland softball coach Francis Flax. "As it is, we've used her as a designated hitter. Later on, she'll pitch some for us, and will probably be the full-time DH."

She arrived at Highland because of her mother,

she says.

"My mother was on campus and happened to talk with Glenna Batchelder, the women's volleyball coach. She told Mrs. Batchelder about me, and about how I was a pretty good softball player a few years ago," Blair says.

"Mrs. Batchelder encouraged my mother to tell me to come out. When I visited campus, I talked with Coach Flax. I came to fall tryouts, and here I am."

Blair admits she was a little worried about how a 26-year-old divorced mother of a small child would fit in on a softball team of "college kids."

"It's been a lot easier. The other players have accepted me and through them I have met a lot of people on campus that I probably would not have met," she says.

She could never keep up the rigorous schedule if it were not for her parents, she says.

"They help me a great deal — especially on the days we have out-of-town games. They take care of Mandy for me. Otherwise, Mandy goes with me everywhere I go. She's become a big softball fan, and the players love her," she says.

Whether she will pursue her collegiate softball career remains uncertain. As a freshman, she can and likely will return to Highland next year, and Flax is hopeful she will be a key player.

"I really don't know about next year or after that. I'm just enjoying this year and not making any plans," she says.

Crude oil production down in '87

Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — Production of crude oil declined 12.3 percent during 1987 while natural gas production rose 1.5 percent last year, the Kansas Corporation Commission reported today.

It was the third straight year that oil production has dropped in the state, the KCC said.

It also reported that declarations of intent to drill for oil and gas jumped 17 percent last year as the price of oil improved in mid-year before slipping back and companies began gearing up for increased drilling for gas in the Hugoton field.

"How much of a recovery Kansas exploration and development experiences will depend in large part on actions taken elsewhere," a KCC statement said. "OPEC's production policies will remain a key to crude oil prices."

OPEC is the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The crude oil price was \$15.50 a barrel last February in Kansas, rose to a 1987 high of \$19.50 in July and has now fallen back to \$15.50.

Crude production in Kansas fell from 67 million barrels in 1986 to 58.2 million barrels last year, a drop of 12.3 percent. The 1987 figure matched the previous low in 1976.

Gas production rose from 452 billion cubic feet in 1986 to 459 billion cubic feet, up 1.5 percent.

The commission authorized infill drilling in the Hugoton field in 1986 — allowing producers to double the number of gas wells in the field — but said that decision had little effect on 1987 production since companies were just starting to drill the new wells.

Monday was Jayhawks Day

Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — Gov. Mike Hayden declared Monday "Kansas Jayhawks Basketball Day" in honor of KU's appearance in the NCAA championship game against the Oklahoma Sooners.

Hayden urged Kansans to join him in congratulating the Jayhawk program.

Hayden and Oklahoma Gov. Henry Bellmon also agreed to a wager on the KU-OU title game: a case of Kansas strip steaks and a turkey on Hayden's part against a case of Oklahoma beef put up by Bellmon.

Hayden won the turkey from North Carolina Gov. James G. Martin when KU defeated Duke in Saturday's semifinal game.

Focus on social awareness

On Wednesday, April 6, "Search for Sanctuary," "Guatemala: Saints or Subversives" and "Colors of Hope" will be shown in the cafeteria from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At 7 p.m. "Missing" will be shown in the cafeteria followed by a discussion led by Scott Baird, Ph.D., faculty co-coordinator. On Thursday, April 7, "God & Money" and "Food Banking" will be shown during the lunch hour, and at 7 p.m. the Rev. Emeric Fletcher, O.S.B., Sister Ellen Richardson, O.S.B., and Peter Cvek, Ph.D., will speak about economic justice in Mabee Theater.

The weekend will begin with more social-themed movies. Later in the day, all those interested in participating can help build a Shanty Town. An evening meal will be served soup kitchen-style in the Shanty Town at 6 p.m. Two Kansas City homeless people will be at the Shanty Town to talk about their experiences, and Stuart Whitney of Kansas City's Restart Organization for the homeless will be on campus for the event.

Beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, students will join in Spring cleaning for Atchison's elderly.

Benedictine instructor, former student to combine for recital

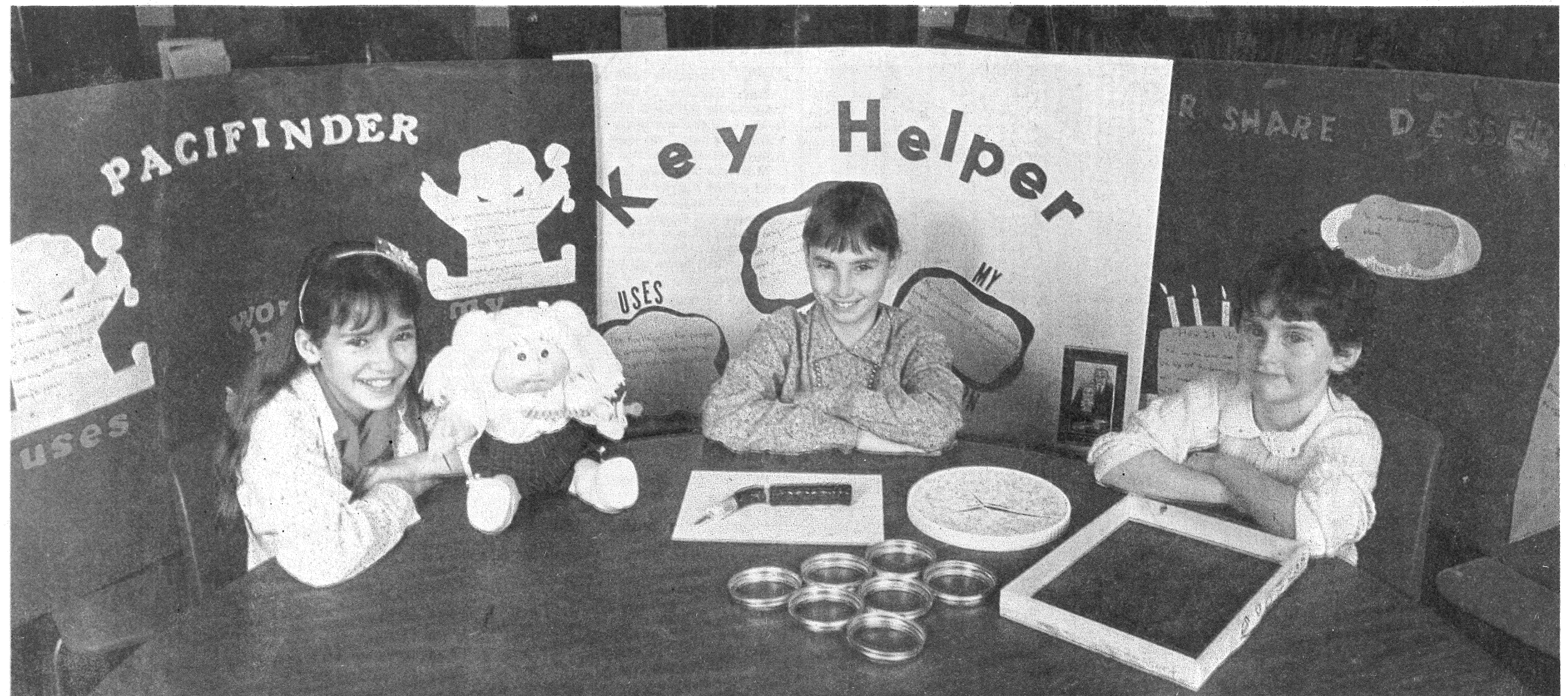
ATCHISON, Kan. — Benedictine College voice instructor Lisa Mabrey and 1983 Benedictine graduate Mary Linda Hughes will combine their tal-

ents for a vocal recital Tuesday, April 5. The 7:30 p.m. performance is free and open to the public in the Benedictine South Campus Auditorium.

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Highland students, from left, Holly Lucas, Merideth Harness and Beth Molleker with their inventions in front of the them and their advertising placards behind them.

Young inventors gear products to need

Doniphan County students gird for Invention Convention

HIGHLAND, Kan. — Necessity is still the mother of invention.

Holly Lucas, age almost 11, became severely frustrated when the youngster for whom she babysits kept spitting out his pacifier.

He'd spit the pacifier on the floor. It would roll under a piece of furniture. Then it was up to Holly to find the rubber-nippled security toy when the baby grew fussy again.

"I got tired of it," says Holly. So she invented the pacifinder.

originality, usefulness in addressing real needs, the workability of the invention and the clarity with which the presentation about the invention is made," said Mrs. Telia Gilcrest, instructor in the gifted program.

On the evening of the convention, students will set up their displays in the HCJC library at 7 p.m., and the public is invited to inspect the inventions beginning at 7:30. Inventor Mark Juhl will deliver a brief speech at 7:45. Winners will be announced at 8.

"Everyone has been so helpful with this," said Gilcrest "including all the Doniphan

made of heavy cloth which fastens with velcro, to keep Jonathan from having his fun.

Beth Molleker, an eight-year-old Highland third grader, was concerned that she wasn't getting her fair share of pastries and cakes.

She invented what she calls "fair share dessert markers" which can be used to divide all pies and/or cakes into equal portions.

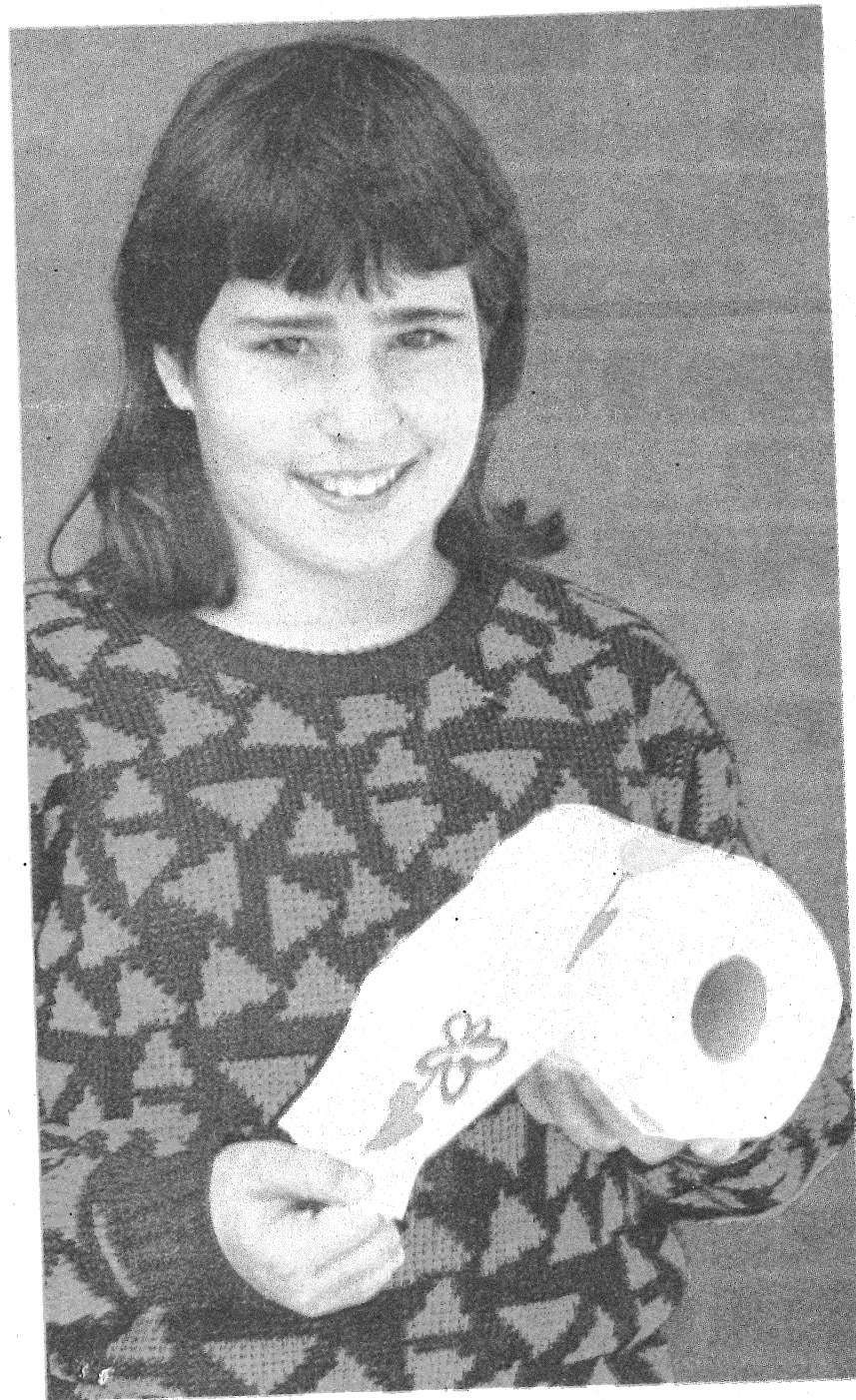
"My brother and I were always fighting over who gets the biggest piece. With this, all of the pieces are equal in size," she says.

Meredith Harness, 11, also from Highland, was concerned that many people with arth-



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Kimberly Huss, Troy, displays toilet tissue cover.

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"I got tired of it," says Holly.

So she invented the pacifinder.

It's little more than a string which can be pinned to a piece of the youngster's wearing apparel. The other end of the string is tied securely to the pacifier. The pacifier can be spit out, but it can't be lost.

Holly's pacifinder will be but one of the inventions to be officially unveiled at Doniphan County's first annual "Invention Convention" scheduled at Highland Community College Nov. 17.

All of the inventions are the works of members of gifted programs at five Doniphan county schools. Winners will be selected in the combined third and fourth grades, in the fifth grade and the sixth grade. The grand prize winner earns a trip to the national contest in Washington, D.C., in December.

"We will have a panel of seven judges who will determine the winners on the basis of

originality, usefulness in addressing real needs, the workability of the invention and the clarity with which the presentation about the invention is made," said Mrs. Telia Gilcrest, instructor in the gifted program.

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"Everyone has been so helpful with this," said Gilcrest, "including all the Doniphan county banks which contributed our prizes."

"All I have asked of the inventors is that the invention fill a need," she said.

So it was a matter of necessity that Kimberly Huss, a Troy sixth grader, came up with what she calls her "paper caper" protector.

"I have a little brother, Jonathan, who's three, and he keeps unrolling the toilet tissue. Every time we turn our backs he unrolls the toilet tissue," she says.

So she invented a toilet tissue roll cover.

Text by Allen Seifert, staff writer; staff photos by Ival Lawhon Jr.

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"My brother and I were always fighting over who gets the biggest piece. With this, all of the pieces are equal in size," she says.

Meredith Harness, 11, also from Highland, was concerned that many people with arthritis have trouble using a single key.

So she put the key into a handle made from the rubber cover for a bicycle handle bar.

"We tried it with our truck key and it worked pretty well," she said about her key helper.

"These are just a few of the inventions the judges will see at the convention," said Gilcrest. "We have other youngsters who are working on items like a toy within a bar of soap, so taking a bath will be fun, and a drinking glass with a mirror in the bottom so the drinker can see his or her image when the milk is finished. It's designed to encourage youngsters to drink their milk."

Gilcrest is hopeful that this first invention convention will be a regularly-scheduled event — a necessity to show all the inventions.

Educational maverick runs unique Vermont school

Associated Press

ANDOVER, Vt. — The children at East Hill Farm and School rise every morning at 6 and spend their days milking cows, tending vegetable gardens, and helping produce 85 percent of the food and energy their school consumes while also keeping up with reading, writing and arithmetic.

They learn mechanical engineering by helping keep the farm's 1954 John Deere tractor running, meteorology by trying to

read the weather in the western sky. Each student is required to play a musical instrument.

Some in the school have learning disabilities. Some graduates have gone on to Yale and Dartmouth.

Compounding East Hill's incongruities is its headmaster, Dick Bliss. Despite his lack of certification in special education, his school has attracted students from other states who seek special help.

Their enrollment in his school

has prompted legal wrangles, and yet East Hill has won praise from Vermont education officials.

"The school works because of all the individual attention the kids get," said Donn McCafferty, chief of educational resources for the state education department.

Frances Marceau, the mother of a teen-ager who enrolled at East Hill after being a problem student elsewhere, had another explanation: "It's the idea of teaching kids to be self-reliant, to have success and be responsible

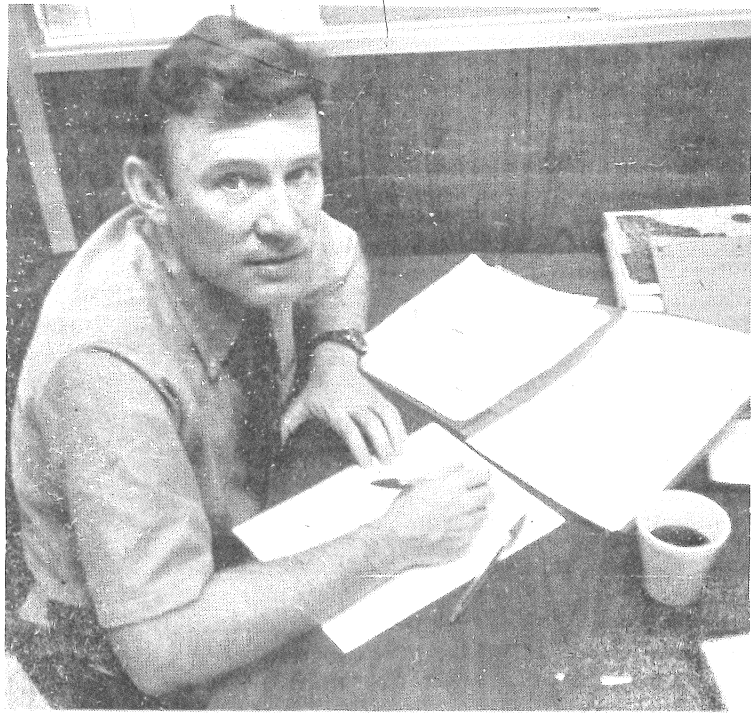
for themselves.

"If they don't go out and milk the cows, and work hard in the garden, and keep the kitchen clean, then they don't get to eat, or their meals are pretty bad. That's part of learning."

Bliss himself stated his educational philosophy succinctly. "The most important thing we can teach here is a sense of self-worth. Everything else follows from that."

Please see **School/Page 4C**

Doniphan County Has Varied History



Arlyn Parish, Doniphan County history buff.

Jim Tomey

The county that had all the action is the one and only one. The county is Doniphan.

This story is about the county that Mr. Parish is studying. I've had the chance to find out some things that happened in this county. When I asked Mr. Parish what made him so involved in the study of Doniphan county, he replied, "I've been studying the county for around six or seven years, as long as I have been a teacher here at HCJC". He states that the county had a lot of interesting things happen many years ago. The county had a part in the conflict over slavery, had the action of the Indians, and has had 11 high schools, 77 grade schools and four universities.

At the outbreak of the Civil War Doniphan county had slave-owners, mostly in two towns. The town of Iowa Point had slavery until the town was burned by a couple of pro-slavery and anti-slavery groups. At one time the town of Iowa Point was the second largest town in the state of Kansas. The second town involved in slave-holding was Doniphan.

Indians, the original inhabitants, lived all over Doniphan county, with the majority living around White Cloud, named af-

ter Chief White Cloud.

For awhile, the county had four universities, in Doniphan, Highland, Palermo, and Winona. Benedictine College started in the town of Doniphan but moved to Atchison. The University of Wayland was in Palermo, just between Wathena and Elwood. Wayland was the only college that was never built; it was drawn up on paper. The University of Hamby at Winona was open for several years. Winona was north of Leona, on what is now Highway 36.

The high schools which the county has had were in Sparks, Bendena, Severance, Denton, White Cloud, Doniphan, Highland, Troy, Wathena and Elwood.

If you'd like to find out more about Doniphan County, Mr. Parish says he would be glad to talk to anyone about it. The college library also has a lot of information on the county.

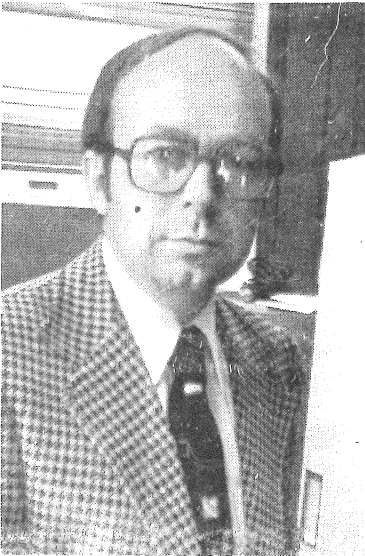
Gary Scherer was a guest speaker for the OEA members on October 18. The students were given some tips on how to approach and follow up on job interviews.

Mr. Scherer, who is now the first vice president of Capitol Federal Savings in Topeka, was listed in the 1974 and 1975 editions of "Outstanding Young Men of America".

The OEA members traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, November 15. They were taken on a tour through the offices of IBM and Hallmark Cards. The members had a chance to see modern offices with the latest equipment. While in Kansas City, they also visited Crown Center.

Financial Aid Is Available For Many Students

There's no secret to getting financial aid to help offset college costs. You simply must prove you need help, and with increased eligibility for middle-income families in the law, it's



BLAINE SHAFFER
Financial Aids
Director at HCJC

worth a try.

But you must apply for it. Just applying for admission does not qualify you for aid dollars.

Your best bet is to apply first to the vast federal programs: basic grants, supplemental grants, work and loans.

Next to these large sources for aid come all the others. Applying for federal aid is a lot like seeking a job through an employment agency. You don't have to track down most of the aid money. The college financial aid administrator will do it for you—after you have provided information about your finances, often through a national agency.

Then the colleges will try to match your need with financial aid from many sources. Colleges and other aid sponsors always make the final decision on aid totals and the type of aid you'll get.

Here's what to do to apply:

(1) Contact the financial aid director at the schools to which you are applying and find out how to apply for aid. You'll probably be told to file the Family Financial Statement (FFS). Use the form to apply to all federal programs and have it sent to all schools where you think you need aid. Some financial aid directors may ask you to file a supplement with more facts.

(2) Obtain the FFS from you guidance counselor or financial aid officer at one of the school you are considering.

(3) Follow instructions; report your income, debts, expenses, assets, number of children in the family and college. Include heavy expenses, such as those related to a family member's handicaps. You will not have to wipe out your assets to pay for college. Depending on age and other factors, \$16,000 to \$49,000 of your family assets may be "protected". After that, only 12 percent of your remaining assets is considered in determining your financial strength.

(4) Use the form to apply for

"The Past Is Prologue"

Davis Cites Lessons of History

Sharon Engler

"American History is my most challenging class," stated Wayne Davis. History repeats itself, therefore, studying it helps us understand the events of the present and their effect on the future.

Thucydides, the great Greek historian of the fifth century B.C., held that accurate knowledge of past events helps us gauge the shape of things to come. History, as Thucydides saw it, is both scientific and practical. It presents an objective, exact account of events and their causes, and in so doing it prepares statesmen and students for dealing with the future. His main assumption was that, since human nature is unchangeable, the course of future events will more or less follow one pattern exhibited in past events.

It was not merely fortune or fate that gave Rome her mastery of the world, but training, discipline and a set purpose to attain that end. Present day politicians and students could learn from this how to act in a similar situation. The educated mind is not an almanac, a memorization machine, or a trackdown of misplaced commas in a manuscript. It is an organism that understands relationship between facts and ideas, and between the past and the present. In history we attempt to grasp relationships, to see how one set of concepts relates to another, and



Wayne Davis

to comprehend their proper order of value—and their relevance to the life of the person possessing such knowledge.

We are the sum of all our yesterdays. A 1777 patriot's epitaph in a New England church yard reads, "My son, that which I bequeath to you, you must earn anew if you would keep it."

Only a knowledge of American history can bequeath the story of the birth and development of our nation and its consequences. It is obviously impossible for us to preserve what we have if we have no knowledge of what we are preserving.

the Basic Grants Program by checking the appropriate box. You will probably not get all the aid you need from the Basic Grants program, so it is wise to use the form to apply for as much as you can.

(5) On the form, list all schools and programs that should receive your financial information.

As soon after Jan. 1 as possible, send the application to the appropriate national processing agency, as directed. Pay the processing fee. Keep a copy of your form for your records. The agency will calculate what portion of the total cost you can afford to pay, after taking your special circumstances into account.

You are expected to pay something toward expenses. If the total you pay is figured by a national agency, it doesn't change much from one college to another, even the most costly ones. What does change is the amount you need for the higher-cost colleges.

The financial aid director will award your aid at about the time you hear whether you have been admitted. You will get the funds in a "package" that may include a grant (money you will not have to pay back), a low-interest loan, and/or a job.

Third Time Is Charm — Right?

So take these three hints about these three people and see if you can recognize these three students.

1. Has . . . Mirrored Shades
Likes . . . Strawberry soda with a straw
Is . . . Football Player
2. From . . . St. Louis
Likes . . . Lemon Cake
Is . . . Sophomore
3. Has . . . Pink PJ's
Is . . . Most Lovable
From . . . Missouri

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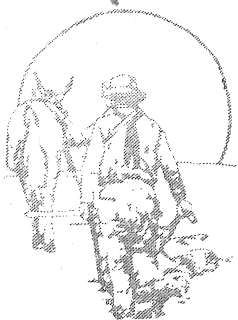
Mon.-Thur.: 11-2, 5-10

Friday: 11-2, 5-midnite

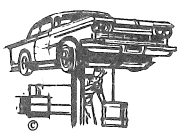
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U.S. Department of Energy, would represent Missouri's share of a \$20 million settlement reached recently between the federal government and Getty Oil Co., which was accused of overcharging for heating oil.

Along with the \$1.25 million allocation received from the federal government on Tuesday, Missouri now has amassed about \$2.5 million to help with the heat relief efforts, Teasdale noted.

"It's not enough money," Teasdale said at a news conference, adding, however, the state would continue to seek more federal aid.

Teasdale told reporters the \$1.3 million in aid Missouri would receive as a result of the Getty settlement would be used to provide fans and air conditioners to nursing and boarding homes and to low-income elderly persons.

In addition, he said some of the money would be used to provide direct relief payments to elderly persons on fixed incomes whose

Heat damage to crop yield not yet seen as irreversible

By DOUG HITCHCOCK
Staff Writer

Damage to farmers' crops from the current extreme heat and lack of rain is not serious enough in this area to reduce yields, Kansas and Missouri agricultural authorities said Wednesday.

Most area corn crops are well into the tasseling and silking stage — the pollination stage. Soybeans also are starting their pollination stage. Both crops need water now more than ever.

However, unless the weather continues to be extremely hot and dry, the bushel per-acre yield will not be severely affected, Elbert Turner, St. Joseph-area Extension Service management specialist, said.

"I don't think we've had any major damage, so far," Turner said.

Bob Rudolph, extension agronomist from Plattsburg, Mo., said, "The heat is causing quite a bit of stress on crops and any time stress is put on them, the potential yield is reduced."

He added that serious damage has not yet been done.

"We have really got good prospects, despite the limited amount of moisture. I think most crops are going to be OK," Rudolph said.

Moe Green, statistician for the Kansas Crop Reporting Service, Topeka, Kan., said, "We know that crop conditions across the state have declined."

He said crops in Northeast Kansas have stood up to the heat so far, though he has received a few reports of corn tassels turning white — a sign of damage to the ears. Rudolph said corn is "ruined"

when white tassels appear.

Burnt, white tassels have not yet appeared in Northwest Missouri, Turner said. He said area corn is standing up to the heat, despite the drought conditions coinciding with the plant's pollination stage. During that stage, corn requires more than the usual amount of moisture to help the development of its "fruit."

After the ears develop, Turner said, water is still needed to help the development of tassels and silks, which are critical to the development of kernels.

The June 14 Missouri Crop and Weather Report, which covers conditions statewide, says farmers "are worried that the heat is affecting corn pollination."

Turner said area farmers say they generally have had adequate pollination.

But the first signs of a pollination-stopping moisture shortage are appearing in the fields. During the past "two or three evenings," leaves on cornstalks rolled up lengthwise and soybean plants turned dark, dull green as water supplies deep in the soil began to dry up, Turner said.

He said hilly areas with thin topsoil and areas with loose, sandy soil are the first to suffer from too little rain.

Shortage of moisture is slightly more critical for soybeans than corn. Beans use two-thirds of the available moisture for the development of pods and seeds, Turner said. Lack of water not only retards development of the beans but, ultimately, destroys the stalks and leaves as well. Corn stalks would

Turn to HEAT, Page 3B

Teacher an expert on Doniphan County's past

By ALLEN SEIFERT
Staff Writer

HIGHLAND, Kan. — Arlyn Parrish is not a native of Doniphan County. But in the eight years he's been there, he's learned more about the area than most people who have lived there all their lives.

"I've always been interested in history," says the bearded instructor of sociology and Spanish at Highland Community College, "so I've tried to learn as much as I can about Doniphan County in the time I've been in the area. I hope someday to write a book about it. There's a lot of history here."

Parrish's delving into the background of Doniphan County goes far beyond the days of the white man's incursion into the area.

"The early Indians, of course, were hunters, and they didn't stay anyplace for long periods. They moved as the game moved. The Oneonta Indians who settled here around 1500 were probably the first permanent settlers," says Parrish.

"The Oneonta's may have been the Kanza Indians that the state's named after," he continues, "The first white

settlement was probably old Whitehead Station, north of Wathena. Whitehead Station eventually became old Bellemont — a river town."

Whitehead Station was superseded by the Greater Nemaha Indian Agency, established in 1837 to minister the Iowa, Sac and Fox tribes which had been moved into the area. By this time, the white man was pouring out of the east, heading to the open spaces of the west.

Parrish has a fascination with the Doniphan County towns which have come and then vanished. He ticks off their names — Bellemont, Palermo, Geary City, Buffalo, Lafayette, Syracuse and Moray.

"There are other towns which still exist — like Purcell and Iowa Point — which were river towns or railroad towns which came and went with the passing of importance of the river or the railroad," says Parrish, "Iowa Point, for example, never really recovered from the Civil War."

While Doniphan County was not a major battle scene during that war, there were still factions who fought the war with tar and feathers, a lynch rope and, occasionally — hot lead. Slavery supporters swept into the area from

Missouri, only to confront anti-slavery forces out of the North. Even after the war, bands of marauders formerly allied to one side or the other were the scourge of the land.

"There's not any proof that Jesse James ever landed in Doniphan County, although there are numerous stories that he spent the night here or there," says Parrish, noting that it would probably be unusual if the vaunted Missouri badman did not at least visit the Kansas county.

After the war, though, there was a turn to education, and at one time the county had three colleges — two of which (Highland Community College is the lone survivor) actually admitted students. A fourth college never went beyond the planning stage.

"The Order of St. Benedict's wanted to build a college at Doniphan, but they never got it started. Eventually, they started a college at Atchison," says Parrish.

"Wayland College was planned at Palermo, but never held classes. There were classes held at Hamby University, west of Highland at Winona," he continues.

Like some present-day universities, Hamby was athletically-oriented.

There were six teachers on the Hamby staff and four of them coached a sport. "One coached pugilism, which I assume was boxing," Parrish says.

The researcher knows nothing about the number of students at Hamby. Their names have been lost to antiquity.

"There are a lot of unique things about Doniphan County. It had the first railroad in the state — between Elwood and Wathena. Everyone knows about the Pony Express, of course. The county was also one of the primary producers of wine in the state of Kansas. There were a number of French people who turned out high quality wines," Parrish adds.

Parrish has done much of his research in personal fashion, visiting old townsites and talking with many of the older natives of the county. His students at Highland have been helpful as well, bring him tidbits of information about the area.

"I hope to some day trace the river route personally — that's one thing I haven't done yet, but I'm still learning. Practically everyone I talk with tells me something about the county I didn't know. It's fascinating," he says.

Atchison embarks on three building projects

By LEIGH ANNE PORCHER
Staff Writer

ATCHISON, Kan. — City and federal officials had never shoveled so much in one day. Or at least that is what they claimed.

Participating in a series of groundbreaking in the heat of the day Wednesday, they heralded a new industrial development site and a high rise senior citizen apartment complex — then rededicated a city park.

The first ceremony, marking the beginning of a multi-million dollar grain operation and underground facility for office space and storage, was conducted along the Missouri River south of town.

With the aid of federal grant money, the Atchison County Co-op and the Atchison Underground Facility hope to have the industrial site completed by the spring of 1981.

The two businesses matched \$2.5 million of a Department of Housing and Urban Development grant.

Actually, the projects are separate operations built at the same location. Joseph Thum, president of the Underground Facility, said he will be building close to 30,000 square feet of office space and warehouse space literally beneath the ground.

"The underground facilities provide a constant temperature and are easier to heat and cool. They are also cheaper to develop," said Thum.

The president explained he has the potential to build close to one million square feet of office space but will wait until he has enough people interested in renting before building more spaces. Thum said he has no sure commitments yet for any of the spaces.

Garland Rice, general manager of the co-op, said all grain business from the facility downtown will be moved to the new site once the complex is completed. The elevator will be serviced by rail, barge and truck.

"It will be the first river elevator in Atchison," said Rice. The facility will have a 90,000-bushel capacity and is expected to be in operation by the spring or fall of 1981.

Together the two projects will create approximately 95 new permanent jobs and 41 CETA eligible jobs for the unemployed and disadvantaged, said Mayor George Harper.

Con. James Jeffries, R-Kan., and representatives from Sen. Bob Dole's office and Sen. Nancy Kassebaum's office attended Wednesday's activities. State Sen. John Chandler was also present.

"The Atchison community has recognized its problems," said Chandler. "It is unusual to see so many projects, so much at once."

Officials also cleared the way for a new 46-unit high rise senior citizen's center to be completed within the next year. Rent in the \$1.6 million complex will be subsidized by the government.

With a loan guarantee under a HUD

Housing Assistance Payments Program, and a grant for land acquisition from the city, Developer Samuel P. McChesney made the complex a reality.

"The city gave \$60,000 from a community block grant," said McChesney. "Without that commitment we wouldn't be here. This has been an on-again, off-again project for the past year and a half."

"Complexes like this are noted for their long corridors," continued McChesney. "In my opinion, these are quite depressing."

But the developer said he has designed the complex to have centralized meeting areas on each floor. "This is the purist example of what a centralized community complex should look like," he said.

McChesney has built similar structures in Chillicothe, Mo., and has one underway in Savannah, Mo.

"Our experience is these buildings not only provide readily available housing but also provide for senior citizens to get together," the developer continued. "These units serve as a basis for friendship. The major benefit, outside of economics, is a psychological one."

Atchison currently has a 150-unit high rise complex for senior citizens and the handicapped, but McChesney said there are enough people interested to fill the new facility.

Four units of the new complex will be

designed for the handicapped. The apartments are simply a living unit and have no medical facilities. People must be able to care for themselves, said McChesney.

The final stop of the afternoon was a ribbon cutting ceremony in LFM Park. City officials and HUD funds totaling \$87,500 were used to revitalize the park.

LFM, located in a predominantly black neighborhood, had tennis courts installed, two basketball diamonds and a backstop, a drinking fountain, a toddler's park and several picnic facilities.

"We hope this will help property values to increase and serve as a catalyst for future neighbor development," said Harper.

Virginia M. Croft, the chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Committee who had pushed for the project, said the park was a welcome addition to the community.

A few people attending the ceremony voiced complaints against the lack of lights and developed baseball diamonds. Croft said she hopes to see the park equipped with lights and have permanent restrooms built.

A representative from HUD, Tom Kilbride, commended Atchison leaders for responding to needs of the community in the three projects. "Any praise to be given must not be given to the Department of Housing and Urban Development but to city officials," said.