



Obituaries

News from the Past

Mildred R. Watts



Mildred Watts

Mildred Ruth (Ireland) Watts was born December 14, 1926 in Mitchell County, Kan. She was the child of Webster C. and Mabel Amelia Gladow Ireland. Mildred’s siblings were Max, Anna, Carl and Richard.

Mildred was raised on the family farm west of Beloit, Kan., until 1940 when her family moved into Beloit. Her earliest memory was holding her baby brother Carl. Growing up on the farm they had pet lambs, Betty and Bitty, and a pony named Judy. She got a spanking one day from her dad because she had left Carl sitting on the pony. She also remembered a dress her mother made with apples that she was very proud of. She, her sister Anna, and friend Betty would sneak out to the hay loft to smoke (more pushing boundaries than developing a habit as she was not a smoker). There were many gatherings at her Uncle Walter’s to go hunting coyotes, during which they rode on the fenders and running boards.

Mildred was baptized in the Beloit Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church as a child and later joined the Downs Methodist Church. Being involved with the church was very important to Mildred. She joined the Bell Choir and enjoyed playing in it. She helped cook many a funeral luncheon and the Lord’s Acre Supper.

Mildred attended Beloit High School and graduated in 1944. One night she went to a dance at the Municipal

building in Beloit where she saw a good looking guy from Downs named Kenneth Watts. After dating for a while, she broke up with him when she found out he was a year younger than her, as she didn’t want to go with a younger guy. Love prevailed and they were married March 21, 1946 in the Lutheran Church, Beloit. To this union five children were born, Sherry Annette, Kathy Lynn, Michelle Kay, Kendra JoAnn, and Ronald Ray.

After the children were in school, Mildred started working at the McCannon Nursing Home in Downs as a cook, then at the Downs School lunch program as a cook in 1957. There she became the head cook. Mildred was with the school for 36 years. She will be remembered for “Millie’s Cinnamon Rolls”. The lunches served were the best and everyone has their favorite meal they remember. She was very active in the school, being in the PTA plays, helping with fundraisers, and attending ballgames and programs.

Mildred and Kenneth loved square dancing and traveled all over the area going to dances. One of the proudest times is when granddaughter Dona learned to square dance and attended the Kansas Square Dancing Convention in Salina dancing with them.

Mildred loved playing cards, bridge being her favorite. She and Kenneth spent many evenings with friends playing cards, bridge, pitch, hand and foot, pinna- cle, and many others. Mildred belonged to bridge clubs. After entering Downs Care and Rehabilitation, which became her second home and family, the card playing did not stop, Mondays and Tuesday became card party days. Friends would come to play. These days were special to her.

Family was also very important to Mildred. Her five children gave her 15 grandchildren who then gave her 24 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchild-

dren. Mildred loved having a house full of grandchildren. Holidays and Summer would find the house overflowing with everyone visiting. She always cooked her chicken and noodles as that was (almost) everyone’s favorite meal of hers. At Christmas she would make and send out cookies and candy which was well loved and appreciated. Grandma Millie looked forward to babysitting and attending all the programs that the kids were in. She always had time to be a part of the children’s lives.

Mildred passed away April 9, 2025 surrounded by loved ones.

She is preceded in death by parents, Webster and Mabel Ireland; siblings, Max Ireland, Anna Jennison, Carl Irleand, and Richard Ireland; her husband of 76 years Kenneth; daughters, Kathy Grelle, Kendra McAllaster; son, Ron Watts; great grandson, Kenneth Woodall.

She is survived by daughters, Sherry (Jerry) Knouf, Downs; Michelle Hartman, Wichita; grandchildren, Dona (John) Brock, Cumming, Ga.; JoAnna Mari-hugh, Lincoln, Neb.; Paula (Joe) Kennedy, Wichita; Ryan Lamb, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Dondi Rust, Park City, Utah; Anna (Mario) Gonzales, Vista, Calif.; Micah McAllaster, San Diego, Calif.; Katie McAllaster, Beloit; Dana (Johnathan) Watts, Arlington, Va.; Kari Watts, Manhattan; Terri (Stephen) Bilge, Tex.; Bryan (Bozinka) Grelle, Tex.; Leslie Grelle, Uvalde, Tex.; sister-in-law, Marge (Carl) Ireland, Downs; 24 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, many nephews and nieces.

Funeral services were at 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 15 at the Downs United Methodist Church. Memorials may be made to Downs Care And Rehabilitation in care of Schoen Funeral Home And Monuments, Downs, Kan. Online condolences to schoenfhm.com

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90 Years Ago

April 18, 1935

A large number of children attended the county track meet held in Beloit last Saturday in spite of the dusty weather. All the schools in Mitchell County had been practicing, the most efficient pupils being allowed to enter the contests.

The Merchants and Business Men of Cawker City have decided to give a free picture show to all kiddies and grown-ups at the auditorium Saturday afternoon. The annual egg hunt was finally given up on account of the uncertainty of the weather.

The Cawker City Municipal Band under the direction of J.B. Searle will give a concert at the city auditorium May 9. This benefit concert is given to defray their expenses to the band convention to be held at Lucas June 6. Complete program and information next week. Plan to attend.

**80 Years Ago**  
April 19, 1945

Although heavy rain fell in Kansas over the week-end and many rivers were swollen and out of their banks and taking toll of property, the Solomon stayed within its banks in the Cawker City vicinity.

Just when everyone is in need of a good laugh, up pop those two dukes of daffiness, Laurel and Hardy, in their latest starring vehicle, “The Big Noise,” the 20th Century-Fox mystery comedy slated to show at the Cawker Theatre Friday and Saturday.

**70 Years Ago**  
April 21, 1955

John Seger was the first postmaster and the first mail into Cawker came in Vm. Spear’s vest pocket. The first regular mail was brought by George Keins, Sept. 8, 1880. A.A. Thomas succeeded Seger and held

the office three months. J.W. McGhee took the position next and the salary was raised to \$12 per year.

The high school athletes were honored at the annual athletic banquet Monday night at the High School Auditorium.

A feature of the Limestone Valley and Saddle Club Horse Show and Races is a race between a 1955 Oldsmobile and a Quarter Horse for a distance of 150 Yards.

**60 Years Ago**  
April 22, 1965

Fire Chief LaVerne Moore reminds us that this week, April 18-24, is annual spring clean-up week and asks that all trash in the city be cleaned up on lots, alleys, and vacant lots. This will not only help to beautify the city but also will reduce fire hazards.

Forty-five heavy-duty gravel trucks are busy hauling rip-rap for the railroad embankment. The trip is from the Quartzite Stone Company south of Lincoln, Kansas to the completed embankment northwest of Cawker City.

**50 Years Ago**  
April 17, 1975

Dr. Curtis Nystrom, Topeka, and formerly of Cawker City, was seen Friday night on television as he was interviewed on Club 700 over Channel 10.

The Glen Elder grades and Jr. High vocal classes will present a spring program at the Glen Elder gym April 24. The public is cordially invited.

April 7-11 was Emergency Preparedness Week in Kansas. Its purpose is to alert people to protect themselves in emergency situations. The tornado season has arrived and people need to know how to protect themselves in the event of a tornado or severe windstorm.

The 1975 archery and

firearm deer season was approved by the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission at their April 4 meeting in Wichita.

**40 Years Ago**  
April 18, 1985

Plans are progressing for the First Annual Cawker City-Lake Waconda Recreational Fair and Waconda Challenge Mini-Triathalon. Host for the events is the Cawker City Economic Development Committee.

A community meeting will be held at Sunrise Drive April 23. John Cyr, Beloit, of the Planning Commission, will present a program on grant money available for towns to crete new jobs and expansion.

**30 Years Ago**  
April 20, 1995

Eggs become quite the novelty at Easter. Therefore the Waconda East Home Economics II students utilized some decorating skills and home business skills in decorating styrofoam eggs. Students in this class were Adam Vowinckel, Julie Kresin, Tara Fiala, Jon Bonebrake, Holly Dean, Lindsay Miller, Nathan Vowinckel, Jill Mein, and Sara Gruwell.

USD 272 School Board members spent over four hours in executive session Monday night of last week after which the 1994-1995 extracurricular assignments for the district were made with the exception of that of Waconda East High School boys’ basketball coach Monty Webster.

Fort Hays State University recently honored four Waconda East High School seniors at a scholarship recognition program in Beloit. The students accepted scholarships to attend FHSU for the 1995-96 academic year. These students were Tara Fiala, Tiffany Linton, Jennifer Taylor, and Rebecca Munsch.

Council

over to help with the project.

Gullion stated that the RV park project was reaching completion and that we would be having KMEA coming in to assist.

The golf course did not receive a grant for AC/heating updates at the golf course club house but they plan on moving forward with funds from project fund (this fund was established by the golf course fund raising projects) The golf course is needing grass seed. C. Suter made a motion to purchase grass seed, not to exceed \$1,000.00. T. Cobb seconded Motion carried 3 AYES

D. Mick: Mick presented the office plan for the rest of the year, listing her retirement date as 12/31/25 and at that time J. Biddle will be the full-time clerk. Discussion on when to hire the new part time clerk was discussed and council asked for a proposed budget to cover the expense for the last quarter of the year before advertising for that open position.

Clerk Mick put information in the council packet about Kansas Commerce visiting the CDBG project (new water tower) on April 23 at 3:20 p.m.

J.Biddle: Biddle gave a brief update on the new notification system the City is putting in place. She answered questions and stated that this will be great for city notifications.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. An update was given on the Dream Big 2.0 grant meeting. The meeting will be held on April 3, 2025 at

7:00 p.m. at the Lakeside Elementary Multi-purpose room. Councilman Steve McMillan will be heading the committee on this project.

2. Clerk Mick discussed the updating of the help wanted advertising.

3. Mayor Bader brought up the snow removal plans for discussion. Since there was not a full council it was tabled till the April 2025 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. J. Wise made a motion to donate to the annual Easter egg hunt (\$200.00). C. Suter seconded Motion carried 3 AYES

2. Clerk Mick reminded C. Suter, J. Wise and S. McMillan about the deadline for council filing of June 1.

3. Explanation on the re-allocation of the ARPA funds was led by City Attorney Martin and Clerk Mick fielded some questions due to the changes that were made in late December.

4. Information on the City receiving a KWO grant for the engineering study of the city water lines.

5. Council advised Clerk Mick to start advertising for summer help

6. J. Wise made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the Waconda Baseball program. C. Suter seconded Motion carried 3 AYES

7. Councilman J. Wise asked about the city paying for the spraying of the football field, which had been paid for by a private individual. The cost of Rick Weeks spraying has been approximately \$600.00. J. Wise made a motion to spray the

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field a cost to not exceed \$600.00. C. Suter seconded. 3 AYES

9:00 p.m. – Public meeting on the water tower project closed- No public were in attendance.

9:05 p.m. – J. Wise made a motion to go into executive session for non-elected personnel with Attorney Martin, D. Mick, C. Gullion for 10 minutes. C. Suter seconded Motion carried 3 AYES

9:15 p.m. – C. Suter made a motion to return to regular session. J. Wise seconded Motion carried 3 AYES NO ACTION

9:16 p.m. - C. Suter made a motion to go into executive session for non-elected personnel with Attorney Martin, D. Mick, C. Gullion and J. Biddle for 10 minutes. J. Wise seconded Motion carried 3 AYES

9:26 p.m. - J. Wise made a motion to return to regular session. C. Suter seconded Motion carried 3 AYES NO ACTION

J. Wise made a motion to let D. Reling start at the golf course on April 14. C. Suter seconded Motion carried 3 AYES

Mayor Doug Bader stated that he had been approached by Skyler Wise about the property where the old water tower set. Mayor Bader asked C. Gullion to get a quote on the line stop that will be needed to get the water line off the property then the issue could be discussed further at the April meeting.

9:30 p.m. – J. Wise made a motion to adjourn. C. Suter seconded Motion carried 3 AYES

# Q & A from the Canopy

By Landen Cleveland

## Game Warden Mitchell & Osborne counties

### KDWP LE Division

KDWP Funding

Pop Quiz: What is the only Kansas State Agency that is self-funded and doesn’t get funding from tax dollars? Answer: The Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks. Every now and then I have someone make a comment that he/she pays my salary by paying their taxes. That is incorrect, but if they said they paid my salary by purchasing tags and licenses to hunt and fish in the state of Kansas, they would be correct. We are fortunate enough that between the license/permit revenue, Pittman Robertson, and Dingell Johnson grants we can provide the services we do. Essentially, if you don’t hunt or fish in Kansas, you don’t have to pay for our services. If you have time and are interested, I really recommend you research the Dingell Johnson act and the Pittman Robertson acts to see their history. They are, in my opinion, a pretty cool way that we hunters and fishermen pay for conservation when purchasing sporting goods. If you have any questions, please email me at: landen.cleveland@ks.gov.

Mitchell County Commissioner Proceedings				
The following is a summary of expenditures and receipts and the cash balance of each fund at the beginning and close for the quarter ended March 31, 2025. A detailed statement of expenditures is available for public inspection at the County Clerk's Office, Courthouse, Beloit.				
Heather Weston, Mitchell County Clerk				
	Beginning Balance	Credit (Receipts)	Debit (Disbmsnts)	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$3,039,521.19	\$2,513,629.78	\$1,638,702.84	\$3,914,448.13
Courthouse Technology	(\$2,276.41)	\$101,017.50	\$10,552.39	\$88,188.70
Register of Deeds Tech Fund	\$145,620.30	\$1,750.00	\$0.00	\$147,370.30
Courthouse Renovation Fund	\$66,888.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$66,888.85
Neighborhood Revitalization	\$0.00	\$195,137.19	\$195,137.19	\$0.00
Register of Deeds & Treasurer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Clerk's ROD Tech Fund	\$18,782.05	\$437.50	\$0.00	\$19,219.55
Treasurer ROD Tech Fund	\$20,229.65	\$437.50	\$0.00	\$20,667.15
Sheriff Equip Reserve Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ARPA Grant	\$220,073.93	\$382.49	\$20,073.93	\$200,382.49
Road & Bridge	\$939,971.76	\$2,029,543.06	\$518,889.19	\$2,450,625.63
Special Road & Bridge Fund	\$73,605.59	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$73,605.59
Special Bridge	\$101,841.33	\$177,313.46	\$26,835.29	\$252,319.50
Special Machinery	\$1,198,766.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,198,766.94
Noxious Weed	\$8,503.41	\$126,865.94	\$44,936.52	\$90,432.83
Noxious Weed Capital Outlay	\$104,019.62	\$0.00	\$1,233.40	\$102,786.22
Ambulance	\$173,351.98	\$1,344,912.86	\$578,935.65	\$939,329.19
Ambulance Special Equipment	\$584,350.26	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$624,350.26
Ambulance Capital Outlay	\$356,324.99	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$396,324.99
Rescue Squad Special Equip	\$70,570.94	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$85,570.94
Water Rescue Special Equip	\$9,144.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,144.76
County Health	\$350,611.81	\$541,569.63	\$209,355.04	\$682,826.40
County Health Capital Outlay	\$309,264.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$309,264.49
Election	\$26,624.33	\$30,037.85	\$6,808.64	\$49,853.54
Election Technology Fund	\$15,853.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,853.10
Solid Waste	\$273,078.12	\$174,905.76	\$83,083.51	\$364,900.37
Special Reappraisal	\$36,818.33	\$272,452.44	\$95,773.10	\$213,497.67
Special Reappraisal Cap Out	\$118,131.05	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$68,131.05
Lulu Twmsp - Road	\$12,916.67	\$20,436.90	\$0.00	\$33,353.57
Logan Twmsp - Road	\$16,662.36	\$16,171.49	\$0.00	\$32,833.85
Eureka Twmsp - Road	\$90,681.59	\$10,325.62	\$0.00	\$101,007.21
Salt Creek Twmsp - Road	\$0.00	\$47,427.71	\$0.00	\$47,427.71
Center Twmsp - Road	\$8,827.85	\$29,179.17	\$0.00	\$38,007.02
Hayes Twmsp - Road	\$17,305.10	\$11,501.65	\$0.00	\$28,806.75
MCO Fire Dist #1	\$7,295.77	\$56,757.19	\$25,236.74	\$38,816.22
MCO Fire Dist #1 Special Equip	\$86,524.65	\$11,499.00	\$0.00	\$98,023.65
Tipton Fire District #2	\$15,325.67	\$11,985.61	\$5,834.80	\$21,476.48
Tipton Fire Dist #2 Spec Equip	\$50,017.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,017.95
Solomon Rapids Fire #3	\$24,281.72	\$62,396.99	\$51,770.69	\$34,908.02
Solomon Rapids FD #3 Sp Equip	\$11,255.58	\$27,750.00	\$2,981.16	\$36,024.42
Consolidated 911 Fund	\$76,927.12	\$13,122.78	\$14,772.96	\$75,276.94
Payroll Clearing	\$223,351.21	\$1,075,068.74	\$1,077,394.82	\$221,025.13
TOTAL	\$8,901,045.61	\$8,999,015.81	\$4,658,307.86	\$13,241,753.56