

Memories from yesteryear

The Settling of Stevens County

JUNE 20, 1886—The first school house was built at Halls Chapel, six miles southeast of town and was taught by Miss Connine.

JULY 1, 1886—The first mail line to Hugoton was started. It ran three times a week.

JULY 3, 1886—The first celebration of the Fourth of July was held in Stevens County at Robinson's and Schell's Livery Barn.

JULY 10, 1886—Seven buffalo seen near Macon, and a black bear seen in the sandhills north of town.

JULY 25, 1886—Census taker Calvert finished his report and took it to the governor.

AUGUST 5, 1886—The temporary organization of

Stevens County was effected by the appointment of J. W. Calvert, Clerk; and H. O. Wheeler, John Robertson and J. B. Chamberlain as the Board of Commissioners.

AUGUST 6, 1886—The Board of County Commissioners met at Clerk Calvert's office and proceeded to divide the county into three commissioners districts, running east and west and three voting precincts and townships running north and south.

AUGUST 15, 1886—The town of Zella was established in the northeastern part of the county.

AUGUST 15, 1886—Colonel S. N. Wood established the town of Woodsdale north of the sandhills.

AUGUST 23, 1886—Sam

Wood and I. C. Price were arrested for libel and bound over before Squire Cook. Wood goes on a buffalo hunt into the Panhandle of Texas. Guides or kidnappers were B. E. Stehle, John Jackson, Ed Bowden, J. A. Kelley and J. B. Izor.

AUGUST 27, 1886—The Wood party was rescued on the Coldwater in No Man's Land by S. O. Aubrey and 24 armed men from north of the sandhills. The Hugoton guides were taken to Garden City and put on trial for kidnapping.

AUGUST 28, 1886—About 20 citizens of Hugoton were arrested and taken to Garden City, accused of being in a conspiracy to kidnap Wood and Price.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1886—The first election to make

Stevens a county was held. Hugoton was selected for the county seat. The people in the north of the county did not vote as they felt the census was fraudulent.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1886—The first box house, 12' by 11' was built in Woodsdale.

OCTOBER 1, 1886—James and Trent opened the Stevens County Bank in Hugoton.

From this date on the name of Colonel Sam Wood appears at frequent intervals in the early history of Stevens County. He founded the town of Woodsdale and began a long feud with Hugoton for the railroad and the county seat. He left his impression on Kansas history, especially in Stevens County where some of the most stormy days of his life

were passed and where he met the tragic end that seemed inevitable.

To those who enrolled under his banner and fought by his side in the battles of those early days, he was a knight, honorable and brave. To those who were against him, he was the very opposite.

To the historian of some distant future we leave the placing of Col. Wood's true position in the history of Stevens County.

NOVEMBER 4, 1886—The county election was held. We formed in two rows along the street in Hugoton, and two men carried an open box between the rows and every man put his ballot in said box as they passed. Those elected were Representative J. L. Pancoast, County Clerk J. W. Calvert, County Attorney John G. B. Hall, and County Superintendent W. D. Hogan. For clerk of the court, R. A. Ferguson and C. W. Porter tied, so we had to take their vote over. Mr. Porter engaged in a fist fight just before the second vote was taken, giving Ferguson the office.

NOVEMBER 30, 1886—T. B. Nash shipped 3200 lbs. of melon and cucumber seeds raised on his farm near Hugoton.

Trent and I commenced to realize that banking eighty

miles from a railroad or an express office was quite a task for most of the money came in drafts to be cashed. John Large, an old time friend of mine, formerly of Indiana, secretly brought the cash from Hartland as he freighted from there, going secretly up in one day, empty and back loaded in two days with coal, groceries, etc. He often put the bag of money in the horse's feed trough. One night the man that freighted with him had his lunch stolen from his feed trough, and after that Mr. Large slept with the money under his head.

Mr. Large was indisposed for a few days, and our cash was getting low. As Mr. Trent was then a single man, he was the one to go after the money. At noon before he returned, I was just out of cash. But luckily, the merchants made deposits, thereby supplying me with enough cash until Mr. Trent returned, which was four days as he had to go to Garden City where we had a deposit in the bank. Some of the cash had stopped in the express office at Hartland for the express agent only had orders to let Mr. Large have it.

Taken from Stevens County and Its People, published in 1979.

History from the Hermes

by Lori Walters

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Hugoton High School wrestlers gain more State qualifying status this year than in any other season. HHS State qualifiers include Tyler McBride, Derek Schnittker, Patrick Weaver, David Hawk, Colten Lissolo and Cody Hill.

Thursday, March 17, 2005
A brand new Alco store is being planned for Hugoton. They hope to put the new building near the water tower south of Highway 51.

Thursday, March 16, 2000
The Stevens County Junior and Senior Spelling Bee Champions were determined at the county bee. Junior champion is Jenica Moore of Moscow and Tessa French of Hugoton is Senior champion.

Thursday, March 16, 1995
Wilbur and Elsie White were honored at K-State University as Kansas Master Farmer - Master Farmer Homemaker for 1994. The event recognized their Commitment in agriculture and new ideas, excellence in farming and rural citizenship.



Lindsey Manufacturing Co. of Lindsey, Ne., has named Teeter Irrigation as the recipient of the 1994 Top Dealer Award. The presentation was recently made at the Lindsey's annual dealer convention in Las Vegas. Pictured in the front from left to right are Doug Morris, Ken Teeter,

Kent Sherman and Bob Plummer, all of Teeter Irrigation; back row is Jason Teeter, Harold Crossland, Monty Teeter, Melvin Winger, Earl Pierce, all of Teeter Irrigation, and Jim Grewe of Lindsey Mfg. Taken from The Hugoton Hermes, March 9, 1995 edition.

Thursday, March 21, 1985

Ellen Harmon of rural Hugoton and Margaret Cooper of rural Moscow are both celebrating fifty years as members of Home Extension Units. Ellen was a charter member of the Glen Dale Unit in 1934 and Margaret began Extension work in 1934 also.

Thursday, March 20, 1975

After 29 years in the retail clothing business in Hugoton, Paul Fankhauser has sold the The Toggery. In 1945 Paul came to Hugoton with definite plans about opening a clothing store. The fact that there were no available buildings on Main street didn't deter

him for long. He purchased the inventory of the Bell Grocery, sold it and had the empty building he needed. He remained in that location for four years until he built a new store where Montgomery Ward is located. Paul built his present building in 1965. The new owners are Don and June Trentham and Jim and Kay Allen.

Thursday, March 18, 1965

Rev. John Williams of the First Southern Baptist Chapel of Hugoton has announced his resignation.

Mrs. Faye Hagman was the winner of the Vacation in the Rockies last week.

The Merchants Committee of the Hugoton Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a "Window Guessing Contest" to help usher in the Spring season.

Thursday, March 17, 1955

Moscow News: Dickie McCue and George Hall played a trombone duet, "Old Black Joe" at the Men's Bible Class supper. Dickie and Roy Curtis also sang "Go Tell it on the Mountain".

Thursday, March 16, 1945

Quality Grocery has listed in their weekly ad in the Hermes; Frankfurters 27¢ a pound; Raisins 14¢ a pound; Orange Juice 46 oz. 53¢; Pure apple jelly 16 oz. 20¢.

Thursday, March 21, 1930

The Manter Bank was robbed in a deadly shootout this past week. Three bandits shot the sheriff and three deputies in their getaway. One of the officers died. The robbers escaped, crossing many state borders to the mountains.

If any readers have pictures or memories for the history page of the Hermes, please bring them in to the staff at The Hugoton Hermes newspaper.

HERMES DEADLINE MONDAYS @ 5 PM

Museum Update



This photo was taken in 1925 of the Hugoton Cream Station. This small business was primarily used for farmers to bring their milk to be separated into cream and skim milk, typically using a hand-operated cream separator. Many photographs like this one are displayed at the Stevens County Gas and Historical Museum. Come see all of the photos, exhibits and

wonderful displays. The Stevens County Gas and Historical Museum is open Monday through Friday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The museum is closed Saturdays and Sundays. Reservations for tours by Curator Steve Lewis may be arranged for those days. Call 620-544-9650 to reserve a tour.

The Hugoton Hermes accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express

HOMES FOR SALE
411 S Adams • 407 Van Buren, Rolla
1701 S Jackson
SOLD
611 S Washington • 910 S Harrison
917 S Polk
AUCTION
1840 Road NN, Sublette

Your Residential, Commercial & Ag Specialist

620-544-3730 **FaulknerRealEstate.com**

Karen Yoder
Faulkner REAL ESTATE, INC.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Jordan Air Inc.

Serving Southwest Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle for 50 years.

SPRAYING - FERTILIZING
Complete Aerial Application

We Appreciate Our Farmers!

Call TERRY at 620-544-4361
1-800-264-4361 or Elkhart - 620-697-2657
10% discount on 30 day accounts

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Hugoton Hermes, Thursday, March 6, 2025) 3t

IN THE TWENTY-SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT STEVENS COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATES OF JACQUELYN L. COX, Deceased, and HOLLISTER BERNARD COX Deceased, PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 59

Case No. SV-2025-PR-000001

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Timothy Cox, son and heir-at-law of Jacquelyn L. Cox, deceased, and Hollister Bernard Cox, requesting descent be determined of the following described mineral and royalty interests situated in Stevens County, Kansas: Well 1 and 1-10 of the Coulter A Lease located in the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 10 in Township 34 South, Range 38 West of the 6th P.M. in Stevens County, Kansas

Well 1H of the Taylor E Lease located in the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 16 in Township 34 South, Range 38 West of the 6th P.M. in Stevens County, Kansas

and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by decedent at the time of death. And that such property and all personal property and other Kansas real estate owned by the decedent at the time of death be assigned pursuant to the terms of the "Valid Settlement Agreement" dated the 23rd day of November 2024.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before the 3rd day of April 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the city of Hugoton in Stevens County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgement and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

TIMOTHY COX, Petitioner

/s/ Garrison A. T. Matthews
Dennis P. Wetta, #15027
Garrison A. T. Matthews, #28975
MARTIN, PRINGLE, OLIVER,
WALLACE & BAUER, L.L.P.
645 E Douglas, Suite 100
Wichita, Kansas 67202
(316) 265-9311 (phone)
dpwetta@martinpringle.com
gatmatthews@martinpringle.com
Attorneys for Petitioner