

THANKSGIVING EDITION

THE ERIE RECORD

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Mildred Palmer: Her Life and Times

By ANITA (HARVEY) McDANIEL
MEM-Erie Historical Society

Miss Mildred Palmer was the only daughter of Dr and Mrs. J. Allen Palmer of Erie, Kansas. She was born June 11,1889 around Green Bay, Wisconsin to Dr. Jeremiah Allen and Josephine Elsie (Resch) Palmer. She had 2 brothers who were younger than she, Caryl and Jeremiah Junior, who they called June. Dr. Palmer was a Canadian, but moved to Green Bay, Wisconsin in 1887. He met and married the love of his life Josie Resch in Wisconsin. In later years, she was compared to the movie star Marlena Daune, in looks and demeanor. She must have been quite the looker in her day. They later moved to Illinois and then to Kansas. In 1900 Mildred was 10 years old and her family was living in Florence, Doyle Tshp, Marion Co. Kansas arriving from Illinois. They later moved to Erie because of her father's medial practice. He was considered one of the most progressive of doctors of his time.

Mildred was an outgoing normal teenager with many friends & boyfriends. She seemed to flirt and be very outgoing. One boy particularly made an impression on her. He was a couple of years older and he wrote her poetry. When he graduated, he went to Manhattan to the university and still wrote her poetry. She should have graduated about 1906, but we have no records of that class' graduation. By that time a young man, who remained nameless on all correspondence, was courting her, writing her poetry and coming to the house. But when he went to University, things changed for them. There was a little correspondence after that, a love poem of sorts in 1922, but then NOTHING!!! This occurrence possibly broke her heart so that may be why she never married. We'll never know the real circumstances. How sad it was for a wonderful and carefree, probably a bit spoiled, young, beautiful woman ended up so lonely and forgotten.

In her sitting room was a portrait of her as a young woman, probably about eighteen years of age, she was quite lovely and dressed in a white old fashioned dress that looked as if she had stepped out of one of those old time postcards. She was so beautiful that I could not imagine why she hadn't married, until one day when I ran across some material found at the MemErie Museum that may cast a light on the reason.

There were at least two poems written to Mildred (from an unknown author), when she was in high school, by one or more young, unnamed men, in December, 1910, but no postage so probably delivered in person, and another sent from Manhattan, Kansas in January of 1911. Neither of these love notes were signed, so the young man/men remain anonymous, only Mildred knowing the writer.

Who knows what may have happened, but those poems may have caused Mildred to remain waiting for her knight in shining armor to return, but alas, he never came.

The following is one of the poems that was a gift from a lovely young man and was donated to the Mem-Erie Museum. The other is a little ornery and more teasing - if you want to read it, come to the museum. The paper they were written on is such bad shape that where the paper was folded they are splitting and coming apart but there is a transcription of it available:

This 2nd poem written: Dec 14, 1910, Erie, but mailed from Manhattan, Kan., Jan. 19, 1911.

Together we sat in a lane salter
The prettiest girl and I
The light was out and the hour was late
For time, you know, will fly, by Jove!
How rapidly time will fly.
Together we sat in the welcome home
Though her mother was in the next room

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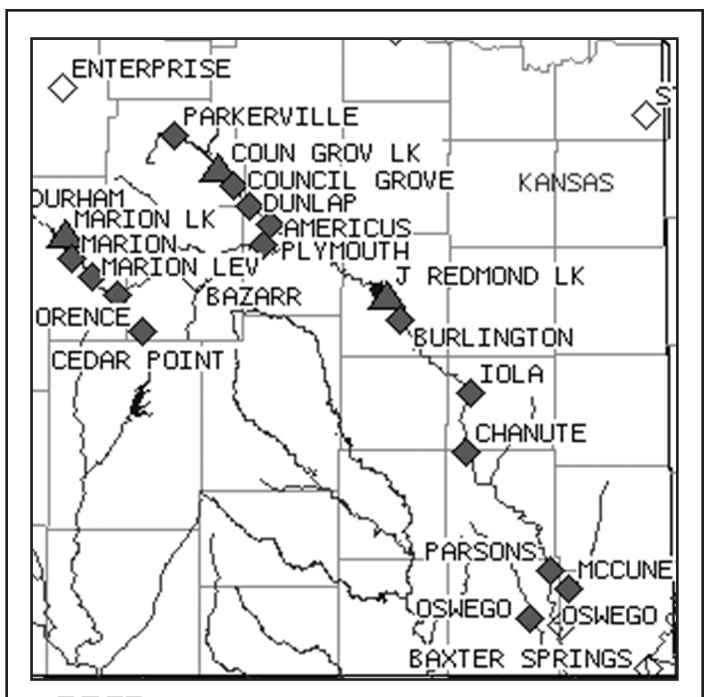


Why so many steps at Erie Elementary?

Last week I mentioned how we all get those odd little questions from time to time that fits into the who, what, when, where or why category. This week will discuss "Why do you have to climb so many steps to get into the Erie Elementary School building?"

Flooding is the simple answer. The settlers of Neosho County had no knowledge of where the Neosho River expands out to in a flooding event. Those who claimed land in what we know today as the river bottoms soon learned what could happen. There were many homes and outbuildings constructed in the bottoms area and experienced repeated flooding. Some barns were built such that a ramp allowed the driving of small numbers of livestock up into the second floor. Those with two-story houses learned to move critical furniture and other items up to the second floor. Former County Commissioner Don Edwards told of how his ancestors were taken by boat from the second story of their river bottom home several times. Clark Cleaver's family purchased a house and moved it to a "safe" location after tiring of floods. Bill Noakes family lived on the little island between the Fourth Street intersection and the new Highway 59 river bridge to the southwest.

Did You Know?



WILLIAM COOK
MEM-ERIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

See WILLIAM COOK, Page Three



BRANDON VOGEL

2026 Neosho Co. 'Friend of 4-H' - Vogel

Brandon Vogel has made a lasting impact on Neosho County 4-H through his dedication, leadership, and willingness to serve others. As a parent of longtime 4-H members, a club volunteer, fair board member and community supporter, Brandon has consistently stepped up wherever help is needed. He is known for his strong work ethic, leading by example and quietly making a difference behind the scenes without seeking recognition.

In addition to his support of 4-H, Brandon serves on the Neosho County Fair Board, where he works tirelessly to improve the fairgrounds and enhance the fair experience for exhibitors, families, and visitors. His commitment to maintaining and improving facilities has benefited countless youth and community members. Whether helping with projects, supporting events, or lending a hand wherever needed, Brandon is always willing to serve.

Brandon's dedication to 4-H, the county fair, and the Neosho County community exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism and service. His contributions have made a meaningful difference, making him a highly deserving recipient of the Neosho County Friend of 4-H Award.

Old Geezers Car Club



EDDIE HIBBS III/The Erie Record

The inaugural "Old Geezers Car Club: Show Off Your Ride" took place Saturday on Main Street in partnership with Butch's Bodhy Shop and D'Angelo's Pizzeria. The four-hour event started at noon in front of D'Angelo's. Lew Heady, above, places his Roadster in line with the other vintage automobiles. Weather was great for a Saturday in mid-November, but next year, the event is planned for the second Saturday in October.





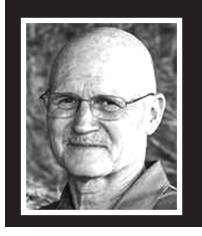
Neosho Co. 2026 Real Estate Tax Statements

In the next few weeks, the Neosho County Real Estate Tax Statements for 2026 will be arriving in the mail. So, what can you expect?

A number of taxing entities, i.e., township, junior college, library, cemetery, school, city, extension office in addition to the county, will be included on your tax statement as determined by the taxing district in which your property is located.

Each of these taxing entities develop a budget to determine their funding needs for the following year, in this case for the year 2027. The shortfall after all other receipts is taken into account is the amount of property taxes required, which is translated into a mill levy. The amount of property tax is determined by multiplying a property's assessed value by the mill rate (per $1,000 of assessed value) and then dividing by 1,000.

Neosho County



TOM GIEFER
COUNTY COMMISS. ELECT

While a number of taxing entities receive a portion of your property tax dollars, the county itself receives a surprisingly small portion of your tax dollars. As an example, I live in rural Ladore Township where U.S.D. 101 and the Neosho County Community College combine for nearly 67 percent of my tax dollars; the county nearly 27 percent.

While the county treasurer collects 100% of your real estate taxes, the office functions as a clearing house that distributes to the various taxing entities, while retaining the county's portion for their operations (general, road & bridge, law enforcement, and health).

How do delinquent taxes and taxes paid under protest impact real estate receipts? That will be the topic of my next article.

Guest Homes Estates VIII

We love visitors and encourage you to come anytime! To learn more about the amenities we offer at our senior assisted living facility, please call us today at 620-244-5301. We look forward to speaking with you about your elderly loved one's retirement.
Email: autumnw@lightningcreek.net



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