

LIFESTYLE

HELLO NEIGHBOR

Ball of twine

During this special year and celebration in our Nation’s history, I am writing columns, from time to time, about special things to see in Kansas. There are many unique things to see in our great state and I encourage you to seek out some of them.

Have you heard of Cawker City, KS? It is a small Kansas town in north central Kansas on Highway 24. The population is just under 450 people.



Their claim to fame and special tourist attraction is the “World’s Largest Ball Of Twine.” Growing up on the farm I was well aware of what twine was. My dad had numerous

uses for it in addition to using it on his old binder to tie bundles of oats together. It was also used to tie bales of hay together. Made of jute, it came in different sizes and strengths. In addition to use on the binder, dad used it to tie gunny sacks shut depending on what he was doing. When I helped him fan oats he would put the cleaned grain in a gunny sack and tie it tightly closed with twine. When the man came to pick up our non-laying hens, he put them in a gunny sack tied shut with twine and weigh them from

a scale he hung from a tree branch so he knew how many pounds were going to be sold.. There were a thousand and one uses. If you needed something tied shut twine was the first thing thought of. My husband and I have a ball of twine that we use on occasion, learned from our days on the farm. I use it to tie back rose bush branches or to tie up plants in the yard. There were always pieces of varying lengths left over.

A local farmer, near Cawker City, KS, Frank Stoeber, decided to take his left over strands

of twine and tie them into a ball. He started in December 1953 and over the years it has grown and grown. I met a woman about a year ago who told me about growing up on the farm next to the Stoeber farm and how she and her sister had fun climbing to the top of the ball and sliding down it like a slide when they were young. However it grew and grew as neighbors and others would bring their left over pieces to add to the big ball and finally it had to find a new home. Today it is under a shelter on the main street of Cawker

City. The last time it was weighed and measured, according to the signage it has a circumference of 46 feet, weighs 27,017 pounds and contains some 8,507,430 feet of twine. I would guess it is at least 8 to 9 feet high.

It continues to grow and tourists have the opportunity to add a strand of twine to the ball. The town recently painted the round top of the city water tower to resemble a white ball with numerous lines representing twine wrapped around the ball. Very unique!

From our HISTORY Sponsored by



‘Second man charged in shooting’

Compiled by Brady Cloud
news@morningsun.net

Excerpted stories in Crawford County newspaper archives

100 YEARS AGO
August 4, 1926

Ray N. Hardin was winner in a spectacular race for the Republican nomination for county treasurer in the primary yesterday. This was made certain this afternoon when all but the second precinct of the Second Ward of Pittsburg, in which he was leading his three opponents, had reported.

The 56 other precincts of the county complete gave him 142 plurality, over C. C. Everitt, his closest opponent.

More than 100 applicants for final naturalization papers, who will compose the largest class ever appearing in Crawford County at one term of court, are expected to be heard at the November term of court in Pittsburg this fall. C. A. Ramsey of Kansas City, chief naturalization examiner of Kansas, advised Sam Webb, clerk of the district court, by telegram today that more than 60 new petitions have been

filed with him from this county and reserved three days instead of two for hearings on the petitions.

Contracts for the construction of a large number of sidewalk projects over the city were let to the firm of Reed & Wheelock and contracts to pave Jackson from Broadway to Walnut and Williams from Broadway to Elm were let to the Independent Construction Company by the city commissioners yesterday afternoon. The paving contracts provide that both streets shall be paved with brick. The

Independent Construction Company entered the lowest bid.

50 YEARS AGO
August 4, 1976

In light voting Tuesday, Rep. Randall Palmer, R-Pittsburg, defeated Weir businessman Karl Krumsick in their bid for the Republican slot in November’s 13th State Senate District election. Palmer, 50, a Pittsburg attorney who has served three years in the state house, accumulated 2,529 votes, or 60 per cent of the vote in Crawford and Cherokee Counties in unofficial returns. He carried

all 15 Pittsburg voting wards, though Krumsick captured all four Frontenac wards, and tallied a total of 1,695.

Plans to remove certain street lights in the area of old Mt. Carmel Hospital and place them elsewhere will be reviewed by the city engineer as the result of an 80-name petition protesting the plan given to the Pittsburg City Commission Tuesday. The petition contained the names of residents in the area of the old hospital, 30th and Michigan, and protested the scheduled removal of 11 street lights on Michigan between 27th and 32nd.

The city of Pittsburg’s 1977 budget, set at \$5,062,361.56, was adopted Tuesday by the Pittsburg City Commission. The budget was adopted as proposed at the public hearing, which was conducted at the commission meeting. The tax levy for the coming year will be 41.931 mills. No one present at the

commission meeting voiced objections to the mill levy, which has remained the same for four consecutive years. The 1976 operating budget for city is about \$4,632,000.

25 YEARS AGO
August 4, 2001

The clock continues ticking for the Lanyon-Mousney house at 609 N. Elm. Crawford County commissioners Friday voted to begin the process of seeking bids for either moving or salvaging and demolishing the century-old structure to build additional parking space for the new judicial center under construction next door at Seventh and Locust streets. The county bought the house from its owners, Covenant Harvest Church, earlier this year for \$175,000. The church meets at its main location on the U.S. Highway 69 Bypass, but has been using the house primarily for storage.

MODERATELY CONFUSED



FAMILY CIRCUS



SUDOKU

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PREVIOUS ANSWER

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