



April 2, 1999

A visiting minister spoke to one of our Perry Sunday school classes the other day, telling about a five-state regional program for the mentally retarded, which he serves as chaplain. To make the point that many of those unfortunate people retain a sense of humor and more wisdom than one might suspect, he told this little true story. One of them, a young adult male who could read but not write, was attending an overnight meeting away from his home, and it gave him the opportunity to spend a night in a motel for the first time in his life. At the registration desk, the clerk filled out a card and asked him to sign it. The young man looked at the line where he was to sign, and made an "X." But, before handing the card back, he hesitated a moment and looked at it studiously, then painstakingly drew a circle around his "X." The clerk said that he had never seen that kind of mark. "Well," the young man said, "this is my first night in a motel and I didn't want to use my real name."

Our friend, the actress Myrna Niles Hamman, is still getting roles in some of the nation's top network TV shows. Many of us saw her last month on the NBC soap opera, "Sunset Beach," and she is still frequently visible in a Polident commercial showing a group of three ladies around a swimming pool. Next up will be a small role in "The Practice," on Sunday night, April 18. This is one of the hottest shows on TV right now and it can be seen here on Oklahoma City channel 5 (ABC network). Myrna plays a court clerk and she will have a few lines of dialogue. David Kelley is the writer/producer. He also does "Ally McBeal," another top-rated show. He also did "Picket. Fences" before it went off the air last year. Myrna asked me to pass along hugs to everyone, so consider yourself hugged!

Finally got around to renewing my membership in the American Legion the other day. I first joined that worthy organization more than 50 years ago while still in the Army during World War II, but the local Ellis-Jirous post has been mostly inactive in recent years so it was easy for me to allow the membership to lapse. The present officers are working hard to breathe new life into the Legion here, and if you're eligible you should join up. Women also are needed to make the Perry Legion Auxiliary an active group once again. We congratulate the Morrison post and auxiliary for their uninterrupted effort in doing so much to serve veterans' families for many years, and we wish the Perry folks equal success. Incidentally, Debra Bales of Morrison serves as the president of district 4 American Legion auxiliary in Oklahoma.

Bill Atkinson, the man credited with building Midwest City, died the other day at the age of 92. His obituary was fairly long because he accomplished many things in his lifetime. His name is very familiar to residents of this area for a couple of reasons. In the years after World War II, home building in Midwest City was mushrooming and Bill Atkinson was in the middle of it. One of his unique ideas was to give a Shetland pony to the kids in each family that bought one of his offerings. Most of those ponies came from the Perry Carlile ranch, southwest of Perry. Later, Mr. Atkinson became the Democratic nominee for governor of Oklahoma but he lost the race to a virtual unknown, Henry Bellmon of Billings. Much has been written about the Shetland pony business and Mr. Atkinson's defeat by Mr. Bellmon, and perhaps a few nuggets about both remain to be told. That will have to come later because for today, we're out of space.



April 6, 1999

Todd Scott, the newly named architect for the Oklahoma Main Street program, spent a few hours in Perry the other evening looking over our downtown area and he was excited with what he saw. The variety of architectural styles appealed to him. He believes the possibilities of restoration are very good, second story space is in good supply, and work that already has been done was carried out intelligently and well.

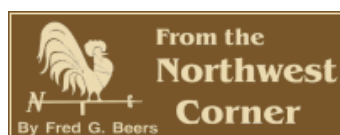
Some other state towns our size are boring in their architectural sameness, Todd said. Perry has a good mix of one-story and two-story buildings and that appeals to his sense of design. Upper floors are excellent for use either as residential or office needs.

Todd was accompanied by some of our Perry Main Street workers on a tour of several buildings around the square. David Payne and Larry Anderson, two members of the local organization's Design Committee, went along to explain what has been accomplished so far and to point out some of the projects that bear a high priority for the near future. One of these is a restoration of the City Hall building on the south side of the square. An aluminum facade now covers panes of opaque glass which once admitted daylight, and a drop ceiling hides the original pressed metal ceiling that was greatly in vogue when the one-story brick building was constructed. The original recessed entryway at the front of the building can be restored at a reasonable cost and removal of the aluminum front could be completed in about one day, Todd said. The overall visual result would be startling.

Work on the City Hall building remains a high priority for Main Street members and city officials as well. Mayor Leroy Rolling and several city council members met with Todd and a number of Main Street representatives in the Foucart building after the tour to hear the architect's thoughts on our dreams for the future. More discussion will follow on the part of the council and the mayor, but from the questions asked at that meeting it seemed apparent that there is a unanimous sense of approval.

Our present City Hall at 626 Cedar Street was the home of the late Everett Nelson's South Side Pharmacy for many years. It was one of the early brick buildings constructed here in something other than Victorian design. It's in the middle of the south side of the square, separated from the other half by a two-block long thoroughfare that originally was named Brogan Street in honor of our first mayor, John M. Brogan. The name was changed to Gene Taylor Street a few years ago as a tribute to *The Perry Daily Journal's* reporter/editor who covered council meetings for many years. The opaque glass panes on both the north front and east front of the building were attractively arranged and had transoms that could be opened for more sunlight and air. The recessed entry was at the northeast corner of the building.

We are fortunate to live in a community where civic pride prevails. The Main Street program offers us advice, leadership, professional service and direction for an orderly transition, and our own local folks eagerly provide the dynamics. Grants are available for property owners who want to be part of this revitalization process. Details can be obtained through the Perry Main Street office in the basement of the Foucart building. Call Betty Warner, the local program director, at 336-1212, if you have questions about any aspect of this extremely worthwhile movement, or if you'd like to become an active part of the program. As more and more become involved, the work tempo will speed up and these noble efforts will bear fruit quicker. Join up and lend a hand. You'll become excited, too.



April 9, 1999

One of my high school classmates died the other day in Houston, Texas; and I feel compelled to say a few words about her interesting family. Before she passed away, Philamene Lindeman Hardin had lived in the Houston area most of her life, since shortly after marrying Orvil (Red) Hardin in 1949 in the Perry St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. Even though she had been an adopted Texan for some fifty years, I have to believe that Philamene always felt Perry was her home. It was in her blood and in her genes.

Philamene was a native of Perry, the youngest of four strong, healthy and attractive daughters born to Fred and Carrie Lindeman. Her parents were of sturdy, robust stock. Fred Lindeman and his brother, George, were the strapping German-extraction sons of an authentic Cherokee Strip run pioneer, Conrad John Lindeman, and his wife, Rose. The elder Mr. Lindeman was known by his initials, C.J. He staked a claim in the 1893 land run at what is now 712 Delaware Street, just west of *The Journal* office. He established a grocery store, which later was relocated to the south side of the square. The Lindeman Grocery was a popular business for many years until such family-operated enterprises fell victim to the larger "super" grocery stores of more recent time.

Fred Lindeman was the middle son born to C.J. and Rose. George, the youngest, remained single all his life. The oldest, Isadore, left here as a young man and became a businessman in Ranier, Oregon. Fred and George ran the grocery store after the death of their father in 1913. Later one of Fred's sons-in-law, Bob Craft, became part of the management. A back room at the store was used for Catholic services in Perry until the first church was built. St. Rose of Lima was named for Rose Lindeman, along with two other early-day residents, Rose McCormick and Rose Doyle.

Fred (Dutch) Lindeman and George were musicians and usually played in Dr. W .C. Marshall's summertime community band. Like most of their generation, they found ways to have fun every day of the week. Their sense of humor, practical jokes and story telling were well known and well founded. Fred married the former Carrie Marie Miller, daughter of another pioneer family, E.J. and Ida Miller, in 1916. Carrie had an amazing ability to instantly recall the birth dates of any number of people in the Perry community. If you tossed a name at her, she would respond with the person's birthday.

Mary, the first of Fred and Carrie's daughters, was born in 1917. The second was Lucile (Sidy), in 1919. Ruth, the only surviving member of the family, came along before Philamene was born in 1924. All the girls were immersed in school activities before they graduated from Perry, High School, and they were popular with the girls as well as the boys. In summer months they usually could be found swimming or leaping from the springboard at the Perry Golf & Country Club Lake.

When I rejoined *The Journal* editorial staff in 1946 after World War II, Philamene was a clerk in the county treasurer's office. Part of my daily morning routine was a trip to the courthouse to pick up any bits of news I could find. Philamene and I always had time to talk about the fabulous class of 1941 one of the greatest yet produced by the local system, and we enjoyed each other's company. She was a buddy, friendly, sympathetic and easy to share thoughts with the kind of pal everyone appreciates. I've missed seeing her except at our occasional class reunions, which have been too few and far between in recent years. I know her extended illness was deeply traumatic for the entire family, and I'm sorry all I could do was to send an occasional message. It's hard to believe she's gone from this earth. All of us need many Philamenes in our life.



April 13, 1999

The other day I spent some time, listening to an exciting array of plans being made by a local committee for the greater utilization of technology to educate young people in the Perry schools at every level. You cannot avoid being astonished by the possibilities of such things. Each of us has been profoundly touched in many ways by the modern miracle of computers and other electronic marvels. Just think about it.

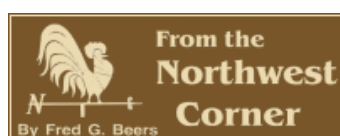
For example, Billy Ray Richardson, a Perry product who is now deeply involved with the field of electronics, made a presentation to the local Rotary club recently. He discussed the strides being made in precision farming and the role being played by the company he represents, Site Specific Technology (SST) Development Group, based in Stillwater. Richardson is a training specialist for the firm. Using aerial photography, technicians can create models of farm fields on a desktop computer. With this they demonstrate portions of a particular farm acreage and show where lime, pH level or some nutrient is out of balance -- too high or too low. A seven-bin truck equipped with the proper technology can then travel over the surface and administer whatever is needed. The truck driver need only drive; electronic equipment operates the controls and decides when to apply the correct amount as the truck passes over a specific area. Incidentally, he illustrated his remarks with the use of a slide projector linked by cable to his laptop computer on a table before him. Another new use of technology.

At the same Rotary meeting, a friend told me about his use of a golf cart recently at Shangri-La Lodge. The cart was equipped with GPS (Global Positioning System). Those devices are commonly found in airplanes, but golf carts? In a plane, the GPS pinpoints a pilot's precise position in relation to coordinates. In golf carts, my friend said, they tell the operator (the golfer) where he is, traces a map of the particular hole he's playing, gives the distance in yards to the tee, and even suggests which club to use.

Those are only two of the thousands of applications in our daily life today. Most of them are for something slightly more meaningful than a game of golf. At the school technology meeting, we were shown several things with the use of a giant TV projector. Included were: how computers are used to demonstrate for students the dissection of a frog; magnifications that once could only be seen with powerful equipment; and any number of tools to help provide our young people with the type of education they must have to stay abreast of the times.

The thing is, all this costs money. A lot of money. It is far beyond the reach of budgets of most school districts in Oklahoma, where teachers wages already are at the bottom of the barrel. The local technology committee, composed of several Perry school faculty members and local community leaders, has determined that approximately \$500,000 -- a half million -- is needed to supply the tools necessary for the program here. About half that amount already has been donated or pledged, and now an effort is being made to raise the remaining \$250,000.

Now our aid is being solicited. It's up to the rest of us to make some response. We've all read interviews with centenarians and other aged folks in which they tell about the remarkable changes they have witnessed in their life span. We'll be able to tell some eye-poppers ourselves one of these days because technology is creating almost daily revolutions in the way we see and do things. Our kids and grandkids need to be properly prepared for the world they'll be dealing with. Let's make sure our Perry youngsters get the best there is. Contact Les Justus, Perry high school principal, or Dr. Donna Kapka, who headed up this committee, to see how you can help. It's going to take the best effort we can give it.



April 16, 1999

When Joseph Alfred Sadler and his wife, Idella, began their family several years ago in this frontier state, they had no inkling that their offspring might set some kind of record. They produced six sons and two daughters, all born in Oklahoma, but their number is not the point here. Seven of the children are still living, and five of them have celebrated Golden Wedding anniversaries. I don't know of anything to equal that, so at least for now we'll look to it as a record.

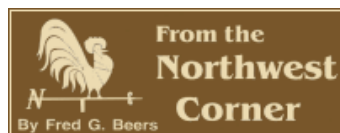
The reason this is of special interest to us is that one of those couples -- J.D. and Betty Sadler -- live here in Perry. I count them as good friends and so does just about everyone else in this tightly knit little community, but I only recently learned that one of J.D.'s sisters and four of his brothers also are members of the 50-year wedding club.

Here's how they lineup: Conn Joseph Sadler and Goldalee Holland were married on January 31, 1941, and have been married 58 years; Russel Eugene Sadler and the former Dortha Mae Doyle of Perry were married on November 26, 1942 (56 years); Wallace Irwin Sadler and Billie Everett were married on May 12, 1945 (53 years); J.D. Sadler and Betty Shafner were married on August 21, 1946 (52 years); and Eletha Sadler and Frank Sherrod were married on, December 21, 1948 (50 years).

Dortha Sadler, who also is a good friend, and Betty Sadler provided this information for me, including the fact that all of the Sadler children named above were born in Oklahoma and continue to make this state their home today. I thank them for these very interesting statistics, and congratulate all of the couples for their long and obviously very happy lives together.

Concerning the other three children of Joseph Alfred and Idella Sadler: One son, the oldest brother, Coy, has died. His older sister, Mary will be 85 in July. She lost her husband some time back. The other brother, Jim, 81, lives in Cushing and recently received a pacemaker implant. Conn and Goldalee live in Cushing, Russel and Dortha live in Edmond, Wallace and Billie live in Stillwater, J.D. and Betty live in Perry, and Eletha and Frank Sherrod live in Waggoner.

It's refreshing to read stories such as this in the state of Oklahoma where the per capita divorce rate continues to set records of its own. May all of the Sadlers celebrate many more happy wedding anniversaries!



April 20, 1999

The Perry Elks chose wisely when they asked Kathy Henry to keynote their annual Education Awards banquet last night. If anyone can provide intelligent advice on the benefits of good educational preparedness for the inevitable career choices, this petite and jaunty young Perry woman can do it. Right now she and her husband, the British-born Robin (Jamie) Jamieson, are operating an international marketing firm, Henry Jamieson Associates, from their lovely new home on the shore of Lake Keystone, over by Cleveland in Pawnee county. They are an attractive young couple living an admirable life with their four-year-old son, Adam. They didn't attain their present station by stumbling blindly along the way. It takes careful planning, thoughtful preparation and being in the right place at the right time to take advantage of opportunities when they arise. Education is paramount in all of that.

After graduating from Perry high school in 1968, Kathy enrolled at Central State University (now the University of Central Oklahoma) in Edmond. She graduated from there, cum laude, in 1972 with a double major in journalism and commercial art. She soon became an account executive with a large Oklahoma advertising agency, Lowe Runkle, with McDonald's Restaurants as one of her clients. McDonald's quickly recognized her marketing aptitude and hired her away from Lowe Runkle, launching the young Perry miss on an astonishing career in big-time industrial circles.

In succession, Kathy was made an assistant, then regional marketing manager, in Detroit. She held that job in 1975-78, then was promoted to the McDonald's corporate office near Chicago. From 1978-85 she served as director of international marketing, national store marketing manager, director of national sales promotion and staff director of sales development for the golden arches firm. She was director of marketing for McDonald's of France, based in Paris, 1985-86. The next two years she was director of marketing for McDonald's Development Company, Ltd., in Europe, at the company's headquarters in London. Pretty heady stuff. Kathy quickly gives credit to her educational preparedness, acquired at PHS and the University of Central Oklahoma, for her adventures in the global corporate environment.

Kathy left the McDonald's corporation after 23 years and returned to her Oklahoma roots with her husband, whom she met in Venice, Italy. Mr. Jamieson is a former international marketer for Seagram, Max Factor and Waterford Wedgwood. They've been married seven years and currently are trying to complete their French Provence farmhouse while developing their marketing consulting business.

Kathy Henry's sparkling career is perhaps not likely to be duplicated by every young man or woman who graduates from Perry high school and one of our state's major universities, but the Elks would have to search hard for a better example to dangle before this year's seniors -- someone who has demonstrated the possible benefits of training and educational preparation for the years that lie just ahead. Kathy is the daughter of Irl and Hulda Henry and the sister of Perry Fire Chief David Henry. Another brother, Terry, lives in Kingwood, Texas. Incidentally, a lot of the information for this column is based on a feature story about Kathy in a recent issue of Old North, the magazine for UCO alumni and friends. The writer was another Noble county young lady, Pam McKeown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry McKeown of Billings.



April 23, 1999

Owasso is one of several fine Oklahoma communities that benefit from a close proximity to a major city, in this case Tulsa. The population of Owasso was reported as slightly more than 11,000 in the 1990 federal census and it undoubtedly will be substantially larger after the nose-count next year. A Tulsa radio station recently started carrying paid advertisements, booster-type commercials, for the satellite city of Owasso, located north of Tulsa. The closing line on all of these plugs is the slogan: "Owasso -- The City Without Limits."

Sorry to point this out, but that's not an original line. W.K. Leatherrock, the late publisher of this newspaper, used the same thing, but with the name of Perry in place of Owasso, more than 50 years ago. It was the closing tag for his frequent personal columns, "In the Wake of the News," which spiced this paper for a couple of decades. It also wasn't original with Mr. Leatherrock and it certainly wasn't copyrighted, so Owasso is welcome to it.

Our friend, former Perryan Myrna Niles Hamman, appeared on the very popular TV show, "The Practice," on the ABC network last Sunday night. The episode contained several story lines. Myrna played a court clerk in a scene where a lady judge ordered a womanizing, but astonished, pornographer to drop his pants in court. Myrna's reaction to all this was a key part of the scene, although she had few lines. Myrna is still landing small parts on some of television's hottest shows. You'll remember, of course, that she got her theatrical start right here in our own Stagecoach Community Theatre, including her outstanding job in the title role of "Mame" several years ago.

Odd things do show up in the mail. Once you respond to a plea from some charitable organization, or buy a trial subscription for some magazine, or show even the tiniest bit of interest in something delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, you can expect your volume of mail to be expanded immediately. We've all experienced that but it seems that the flow is getting out of hand and there's no easy way to turn off the spigot.

I get a lot of interesting stuff, too. One of these is a tabloid-size publication called "Old News," and indeed that is what it dispenses. All of the 12 pages are made up to look like a present-day newspaper, but listen to these headlines from page one: "Wright Brothers Build Powered Flying Machine;" "Casey Jones Killed in Train Wreck;" "Donner Party Menaced by Mountain Snow." Inside articles are about Ulysses S. Grant and Florence Nightingale and all are written as if those historic figures were still living and the events that made them famous just happened.

I've looked at this paper many times and it intrigues me enough that I am considering a trial one-year subscription. The thing is, there's no telling how many additional offbeat offers will follow if I do. Our table of recyclable newspapers and magazines already fills up awfully fast. How'd they know I'm a sucker for such stuff?



April 27, 1999

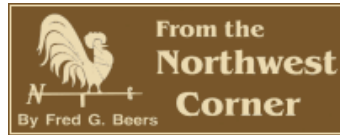
Frank Eby was an integral part of the Perry business community when he closed his cleaning shop a few years ago. He was a craftsman, skilled at his trade, but he also shared his time with most of the worthwhile civic projects that came along during his long tenure in that shop just off the square. He was a town booster, a builder and a devoted worker in his church. We've missed his smiling countenance around town and now, with his death at the age of 92, the loss is even more profound.

Frank responded to his country's call during World War II and entered military service even though he was a bit older than most of the recruits around him. Before that he lived and worked through the Great Depression, operating heat-generating equipment long before we knew about air--conditioning. I never heard him seriously complain about that aspect of his chosen vocation. It seemed he was always preoccupied with the goal of removing a spot from the delicate fabric of some lady's fine dress, or blocking a gentleman's Stetson, or pressing a pair of trousers sharply but carefully so that no telltale shiny surface became a residue.

Many people will remember him best for the annual Cherokee Strip celebration parades, when he and his wife, Mabel, would ride their tandem bicycle in lazy loops around the square, dressed in period costumes lifted straight out of Perry's early days. Their performances became such a tradition in that yearly September ritual that many of us still looked for Frank and Mabel on the 16th even though we well knew they had retired some time earlier. Frank was interested in the history of this area and was, in fact, a part of it.

Some 50 or more years ago, Perry had a number of dry-cleaning shops, and Eby's Cleaners was one of the best. Let me name some of the others: Perry Steam Laundry, operated by the Martin family at 211 Seventh Street; the Art Cleaners & Walt's Haberdashery, operated by Walt and Thelma Bittman on the north side of the square; the 1-2-3 Cleaners, just up the street from there and operated by Zack McCubbins; and Carrie Denning's Unique Cleaners at 435 Elm Street, now the home of the Shady Lady Steak House. Perhaps there were others that I've forgotten, but I think that's all of them.

Frank was the youngest of nine children born to George and Ermina Eby, and he was the last surviving sibling. All of the Ebys were well regarded and had close connections to Perry. We miss each one of them, and send our condolences to Frank's wife, Mabel, their five sons and daughters, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Through Frank and on their own, their family has had a lasting and positive impact on this community.



April 30, 1999

Perry's Main Street program, though barely five years old, has been cited by state leaders as a good example of what can be accomplished when communities pull together for the common good. In this case, that means the rejuvenation and restoration of our downtown business district. We are well on the way toward a goal of establishing that area as a place of fun, interesting things to see, and a good place to shop. Yes, a lot of work remains to be done, but the foundation is being laid and dividends already have become visible.

Last Tuesday night in Oklahoma City, at the annual awards banquet of the state Main Street organization, Perry was honored in several ways. Ed Malzahn, president of the Charles Machine Works, Inc., received a signal honor with his selection as the 1999 "Friend of Main Street." This came about largely because of the cooperation and assistance provided by Ed's company and its employees in the state Main Street rehabilitation workshop held here last summer. Local Main Street program managers from throughout the state were here for a two-day hands-on demonstration of the proper techniques to be used in stripping faux facades from the fronts of business buildings.

Perry was chosen as the host city for that workshop in competition with several other Oklahoma Main Street communities. We were selected largely because of the degree of cooperation provided by the city of Perry, the enthusiasm and dedication of local Main Street workers, and, notably, the extensive assistance made available by the folks at the Charles Machine Works, thanks to Ed Malzahn. Last year's recipient of this award was Oklahoma's First Lady, Cathy Keating, who is uniquely qualified to promote our state's Main Street cities in many ways.

In addition, two of our downtown business buildings were finalists for awards in the category of "best building facade renovation under \$10,000." Our entries were the building of Butch and Sandy Ellis on the north side of the square, where a huge aluminum facade was removed during last year's rehab workshop; and Leroy Rolling's building on the south side of the square, once the home of Wes Marcy's Gem Cafe and Mrs. Marchbanks' used clothing store. Leroy completely rebuilt the front of that building, which he has now made available to the Perry High School Alumni Association for their use. Although neither of these entries won the ultimate award, both are obviously excellent examples of what can be done.

The point of all this is to call attention to the forthcoming fund-raising drive being launched by the Perry Main Street organization. For five years, Perry Main Street has been existing through the largess, the generosity, of other local organizations with similar goals. Now it is time for Main Street to stand alone, and that means you and I must provide the financial means. When you receive a Main Street solicitor in the next few days, remember what's been undertaken here and how much more remains to be done. Then give as liberally as you can to make sure this worthwhile effort continues to achieve at the level it has already demonstrated.

