

**December 1, 2004**

**Perry benefits from generosity of Woodward couple**

Just a reminder: On Wednesday, Dec. 15, the Yvonne Baetz Hodge show, also known as the Price is Right, will be shown on the CBS TV network. It will be the tape of her appearance on the show earlier this year when a gaggle of Perry folks visited the network's studio in Los Angeles. Yvonne, a lifelong resident of this area, won a new car but the show has not yet been seen here. Check local listings for the channel and precise time. Yvonne was a great contestant and you will be proud of her brief banter with the host, Bob Barker. Heck, you will probably enjoy the whole show.

Dr. Charles Martin has continued to be a Perry historian and advocate since his retirement from the field of medical science a while back. I enjoy hearing from him from time to time with the bits of information he unfailingly provides. The other day he showed me a Xerox copy of a piece from *The Oklahoman* (Oklahoma City) under the general heading of State Briefs. The article stated that a Perry charity has shared in the bequest of a deceased Woodward farm couple. Their generosity assisted several charities.

Among them was Overcoming Through the Crisis, a drug recovery shelter in Perry, which received \$754,000 from the estate. The others included the Woodward Standard Arts Theater Council, \$210,000; and several other worthy charitable agencies were remembered by the couple. The wife, Della Buttell, died in 1996 and her husband, Francis Buttell, died in 2003.

A story in the sports section of *The Oklahoman* on Sunday told about Haley Workman of Woodward, who led her Woodward high school girls team to the class 5A finals, to be played in a day or so. She transferred to Woodward from Gage four years ago, and in her three years of varsity experience at Woodward she has played on two state championship teams. Her dad is Mark Workman, son of Bill Workman and the late Patsy Workman, and she is looking forward to a third state title this week. Her college career still lies ahead, and she is considering OSU and OU, among others. Let's hope we get to see her play in one of those Big 12 schools so we can follow her career a little better.



**December 4, 2004**

**UFO's, turkeys and the true meaning of Christmas**

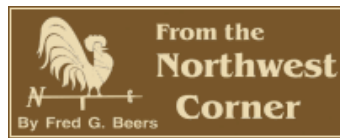
Here's another knee-slapper, if you are cutting these out and saving them for posterity. A thoughtful reader passes this along for our amusement:

A farmer saw a UFO land on his farm. When he investigated, he found an extraterrestrial sitting in his turkey yard. The creature had eaten all of his turkeys. The overstuffed alien was sighing heavily and flossing his teeth. This was the first proof that UFO's are really sighing flossers.

This part is not a joke. It is recommended reading for the holiday season, and that does not necessarily imply that it is a Christmas story. This is a book, *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*, written by England's Lynn Truss. It is a short one, barely 200 pages, and it tells in an amusing way how to use and how not to use apostrophies, commas, colons and semi-colons. If you find the English language and its idioms challenging in their written form, you will get a bang out of this one. Check your favorite book store for the price per copy and other details.

In choosing your Christmas gifts, cards, decorations and all other accessories of this blessed season, keep in mind that we are celebrating the birth of no less than the One who came to Earth to provide us with a means of escaping the terrible punishment we all deserve because we continue to live as we please. Jesus Christ is our Savior and we can accomplish nothing without his assistance and approval. May we always behave in a way that is pleasing to our Creator, God, Jesus Christ our Savior, and to the Holy Spirit who loves and comforts us. Do I hear an Amen?

Merry Christmas and blessings to all of you, and to our families and friends.



## ***December 8, 2004***

### **Television that makes me gag**

Forgive the imagery, but I just may have to gag and regurgitate if they slip in many more of those cox.com commercials where the guy explains to a bored and totally disinterested clerk that he has discovered "a better way" of paying for the service. Give us a break, cox.com. Buy a new version of this ad.

We've been out of town the past few days on a little tour that included some new (for us) territory on the Left Coast, including the fabled San Simeon estate of the late publisher William Randolph Hearst. I'll have more to say about that later.

It's good to see the familiar visage of Coach Joe Gibbs on the sidelines again with the Washington Redskins. As you probably know, Mr. Gibbs "retired" briefly from the NFL a couple of years ago to devote his time to the NASCAR racing team he put together. Steve Spurrier was chosen to replace him in Washington after a super-successful year in the college ranks at Florida, but he couldn't produce a winner for the Redskins. So, this year Coach Gibbs put away his racing gear and returned to the National Football League where he really is at home. You may also be aware that in his NASCAR period he spent some time in Perry at the Charles Machine Works, Inc., which helped sponsor his race team. Several folks out there got to know him pretty well during that period.

As for Coach Spurrier, I see where he is going to coach the University of South Carolina next season. I had already guessed that he would be doing something where his skills would be useful. I knew he must have stashed away enough during his years at Florida to provide a comfortable living for a while. He'll be back, with talent he will recruit at USC.

Here's a piece to close out this column with a smile. It is entitled "Blonde Guy Joke."

There were two guys working for the city works department. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked furiously all day without rest, one guy digging a hole, the other following behind him and filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he asked the hole digger, "I appreciate the effort you are putting into your work, but what's the story? You dig a hole and your partner follows along behind and fills it up again."

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, normally we are a three-man team, but they guy who plants the trees is sick today."



**December 11, 2004**

### **Perry bottle factories?**

More information is being accumulated and passed along by readers concerning the evidence that at least one glass factory once was located right here in Perry. I appreciate all the contributions. One letter was of special interest to me and I think that you will find it fascinating, too.

Sam Jerome, over in Orlando, has been a friend for many years. He writes as follows: "I read with much interest the Nov. 27 issue of the *Perry Daily Journal* and your column about glass bottles found by others in this area. I, too, am a collector of bottles.

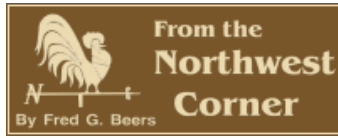
"I find three bottles listed in my source of information (Oklahoma Soda Bottles by Johnnie Fletcher). They are all embossed. Two are listed as (made by) J.L. McCarthy, Perry, O.T. The third bottle (apparently) was from the Perry Steam Bottling Works, Perry, Oklahoma. (This state did not formally enter the union until 1907. Before that, it was "Oklahoma Territory," or "Indian Territory," both usually abbreviated as O.T. or I.T.)

"The 'O'Rourke Bros.' were listed in the 1909-11 Perry City Directory under "Bottlers." Their address was listed as 'South end of 6th and Santa Fee (Fe?) RR.' There also is an article in the Nov. 15, 1893, *Perry Daily Democrat* about a Mr. N.T. Cheadle purchasing a bottle plant in Chicago and moving it to Perry, Okla. He planned to open a bottling company in partnership with Mr. Ed Parks. Although I am not sure of the exact dates, I believe this is the beginning of the Perry Steam Bottling Works.

"My source also lists the bottle from the Steam Bottling Works as 'scarce.' I have one of those bottles in my collection."

"I do hope my information has helped provide more information about the glass bottles from the Perry glass plants."

I cannot speak for others, but the information supplied by Sam has been helpful to me. And it will continue to be useful in the years ahead. There should be more about this bit of local history as time goes by. Thanks to all contributors, and especially to the readers who realized this was a neglected story.



***December 15, 2004***

**More glass factory information**

M.D. (Bud) Jirous grew up here and at one time helped run the local J.C. Penney Co. store. Then he got into the fast food business, created the Sonic chain and became a legend in his own time. Mr. and Mrs. Jirous (she is the former Barbara Milliron of Perry) now live in Oklahoma City, but they have a lovely weekend retreat east of Perry. They are still very much a part of this area.

Bud and Barbara love the history of this community (don't we all?) and today they provide additional information concerning the Perry glass factory, a business that existed here soon after the Cherokee Strip land opening on September 16, 1893. You will recall that this matter of a Perry glass factory was brought to light recently when H.B. Evans of Billings related that he once had two greenish bottles embossed with lines that indicated they were made in Perry. The outpouring of additional information along that line has been nothing short of amazing.

The envelope with Bud's message also included this preamble: "Enclosed is the outline of a soda pop bottle I have in my bottle collection. Barbara found the bottle in an antique shop in Oklahoma City about 1965. The bottle is clear in color (with) the enclosed embossed printing on it and the "#2" embossed on the bottom of the bottle. It has an extra heavy glass bottom and a few small air bubbles in the glass. It is designed for a metal cap.

"It is a little larger than the Grapette bottles that we had when we were kids. At the time Barbara found the bottle, Dad (the late Charlie Jirous) told me he remembered, as a young man, a bottle works located about 100 yards northwest of the Frisco Railroad depot and behind the Swart Service Station & Oil Co. on south 7th Street..."

Maybe one of these days we will come across additional information and perhaps even an actual photograph of the Perry glass works. There's still more to be learned about this early-day Perry factory. Thanks to Bud and Barbara for sharing this piece with us. By the way, the embossed line sent to me by Mr. and Mrs. Jirous reads: "Perry Steam Bottling Works, Perry, Okla."

Oklahoma did not become a state until 1907, so that probably helps date this piece.



***December 18, 2004***

**Memories of my first bike**

While Christmas shopping at a Perry store the other day, I noticed a rack of shiny new bicycles for sale. They were so attractive that I could not help but imagine how thrilled any boy or girl would be to find one among this year's gifts from

Santa. Made me think of the time I received one for my very own. It was the kind of thrill we rarely experience today because we are too jaded.

At the time, our family was operating a drug store on the north side of the square and business was bad. We lived in a second story apartment over the drug store and rented our five-bedroom house at 8th and Elm to others for \$35 per month. Although we knew there was a Great Depression going on, we had almost everything we needed. To a kid, the world looked OK. Except, I did not have a bike. Everything but a bicycle, I thought.

I had two older sisters. Since they came before I did, they had a girls' bicycle to share. That's one without a bar at the top of the frame, so they could wear skirts. A boys' bike had that central bar, but I had to learn how to ride on a girls' model. It was OK, but privately humiliating.

Well, times were tough. So, on a Christmas eve when I found a shiny new blue bike with balloon tires on chrome wheels – and a bar atop the frame – it was way beyond belief. A bike of my own! And, to top it off, a boys' bike. It must have cost at least \$30, and in those times that was a sizable amount. I was deliriously happy.

After I made a ceremonial ride around the square on my newly found, beautiful bike, Mother sat me down and explained a few things. The bicycle was to be kept inside the drug store each night and it was to be used for delivering customers' orders – prescriptions (priced up to \$3), short Cokes (nickel each), Wings cigarettes (10 cents a pack), and the latest issue of Literary Digest magazine (25 cents, wasn't it?). I understood exactly. The only way we could afford that bike was to write it off as a business expense. I was the delivery boy, and the basket on the Bluebird was to hold customers' orders. In my job, there were no idle hours. The store was open from 7 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., and any order received within that time frame was to be delivered (free, no tips) by me on the bicycle.

But that was OK with me. I looked forward to delivering things from the City Drug Store to homes all over town, day and night, long as I could ride my new bike. Remind me to tell you sometime how my folks hid my bike when I forgot to put it away. That will take another chapter.



***December 22, 2004***

**If we can't trust in God, who can we trust?**

Christmas is drawing nigh, so let's focus on the reason for the season and think about that. We'll go back to the other cares and concerns when the Yuletide season is past.

Thanks to some friends scattered here and abroad, we have a few appropriate thoughts that relate to Christmas, if only in an oblique way. I appreciate all of them and welcome more on a variety of topics of general interest. Today's topic: "So Be It." I do not know where this originated.

So, if the U.S. government determines that it is against the law for the words "under God" to be on our money, then so be it. And if that same government determines that the "Ten Commandments" are not to be used or on a government installation, then so be it.

And since they already have prohibited any prayer in the schools, on which they deem their authority, then so be it.

I say "So be it," because I am a law-abiding U.S. citizen. And also because I would like to think that smarter people than I are in positions to make good decisions. I would like to think that those people have the American people's best interest at heart.

But, you know what else I'd like?

Since we can't pray to God and cannot post His Ten Commandments in government buildings, I don't believe the government and its employees should participate in the Easter and Christmas celebrations which honor the God that our government is eliminating from, so many facets of American life.

I'd like my mail delivered on Christmas, Good Friday and Easter as well as on Sundays. After all, those are just another day.

I'd like the Senate and the House of Representatives to not have to worry about getting home for the Christmas break. After all, that is just another day.

I'm thinking a lot of my taxpayer dollars could be saved if all government offices and services would work on Christmas, Good Friday and Easter. It shouldn't cost any overtime since those would be just like any other day of the week to a government that is trying to be politically correct.

In fact, I think that our government should work on Sundays (initially set aside for worshipping God) because, after all, our government says that it should be just another day?

What do you think?

If this idea gets to enough people, maybe our elected officials will stop giving in to the minority opinions and begin once again to represent the majority of ALL the American people.

Feel free to pass this on, because if we can't trust in God, who can we trust?

There you are. Something to think about and act accordingly. Merry Christmas to all.



***December 24, 2004***

### **The glass bottle mystery deepens**

The saga of glass bottles in Noble county goes on unabated. New information turns up almost every day and some of it actually helps to clarify the mystery of whether or not soda bottles were really made here shortly after the Cherokee Strip land run of September 16, 1893. Some folks believe the bottles were made here, others are of the opinion that bottles were brought here, already made, and then filled with Coca-Cola or other soda water.

You'll recall that this discussion was initiated a few weeks ago by a question from H.B. Evans of Billings after two bottles in his collection were broken. An embossed line on the bottles indicated they were made and filled right here in Perry around 1893.

Ed Malzahn knows a lot about manufacturing. He is the head man out at the Ditch Witch factory, where international trade is carried on for the trenchers and other underground construction equipment that he either invented or developed. His opinion is that the bottles were brought here from somewhere else, then filled with the fizzes of the day and sold that way. "Glass manufacturing is an art and a heavy, industry," Ed says, "The only Oklahoma glass plant I know about was located in Sulphur; OK, and it may still be there. I don't think Perry ever manufactured glass. There have been plants here that filled bottles brought in from somewhere else." His word on the subject is good enough for me.

Harry Hughes has been a real estate developer, automobile paint and body expert, and who knows what else. Through the years he has been involved in the razing of several historic Perry buildings, and what he uncovered at some of them has been fascinating to contemplate. The other day he showed me some bottles that turned up when he was doing surface dirt work at the site of the old St. Louis Hotel, the Grand Opera House, and other locations in this community.

One that interested me bore the embossed line of "E.E. Howendobler, Pharmacist, 103 Cedar Street." My dad, . Fred W. Beers, also a pharmacist, was invited to come here in 1895 from Wichita by Mr. Howendobler, and Dad eventually opened his own business, the City Drug Store, on the north side of the square. Harry has an extensive collection of bottles and in a unique way they tell the history of this area.

When Harry demolished the old two-story St. Louis Hotel, on Cedar street, where Dr. Brian Busby now has his dental office, he remembers that the hotel's walls were "four bricks thick," and to bring them down all it took was a slight push. "The sand and lime mortar wiped off clean from each brick," Harry remembers, and they required nothing more. Hundreds of the bricks were used to build Dr. Busby's office, others helped build homes in Perry and Oklahoma City The old Grand Opera House on the east side of the square had its own peculiar problems. Each building Harry has helped clear away had its own story to tell, and he remembers all of them. His own house, in Hughes-Busby Addition, was built with bricks from the St. Louis Hotel. The home is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rupp.

Many have shared with me the joy they have experienced through collections such as these bottles, and it is easy to understand how they feel. There's a bit of a cloud of mystery surrounding the issue of whether or not glass bottles were ever actually made in Perry but we'll leave the solution of that question for others to solve, Thanks to all who have given us their thoughts on the subject, and let us all keep Noble county history in mind as we store away mementos of that era around September 16, 1893.



***December 29, 2004***

**It's never easy to ask taxpayers for a little more money**

I see where our county commissioners are trying to decide how to go about submitting a new proposal for replacing the aging Noble county jail that now sits atop the courthouse. Good luck to them. It's never easy to ask taxpayers for a little more money in order to comply with the demands of higher officials. But that's the only possible way the funds can be raised. You could hold bazaars and cake sales all year long and still wind up with insufficient funds for a new jail.

Those same officials do not have to pay the bills for prisoners who deliberately damage the facilities designed to hold them when they break the law, and those same higher officials do not have to pay the bills for transporting prisoners to other locations when we cannot meet all the requirements proclaimed by higher authority. In other words, they do not

have to face angry voters. I'm all in favor of providing the basic needs of lawbreakers, but meeting that goal is not always possible in times of tight money.

There's no denying the new facility is needed. There are more criminals to incarcerate because we have certain high moral standards that demand attention. Many warrants cannot now be served because there is just no place to hold the perpetrators while they await judgment. The drug scene in Noble county is bleak, as it is everywhere, and we have to do something with the criminals who cross the line. So we are being told by a higher authority that better and safer facilities must be provided locally, or our prisoners will be moved elsewhere with you-know-who paying the bills.

Our county jail on top of the courthouse was built when no one could envision the problems now being dealt with. The courthouse itself was not easy to build. Noble county did not have a bundle of money to build such a facility. If it's any consolation to our present commissioners, funds for the courthouse were hard to come by. It took more than one election to gain voter approval, but we finally got a winner. Perhaps that will come in this instance when the present commissioners submit a new proposal. We cannot afford to put off a "yes" vote, by the proper majority.



***December 31, 2004***

#### **Perry airport part of the local charm**

One of the nice things about living in a town like Perry is the size of our airport. The fact that we even have an airport is quite a story in itself, and we have recounted that bit of history in this space on previous occasions.

But when you consider the turmoil surrounding Tulsa's airport and Will Rogers Field in Oklahoma City, we have to count our blessings.

Tulsa is going through some domestic turmoil right now regarding concessions given to lure a now-broke airline and Oklahoma City is rebuilding (again) its sprawling airport, a fact which makes boarders walk endless pathways just to find the gate where their airline will admit paying customers. And, that process is going to continue for several more months, we hear.

By contrast, we just read in this paper the other day that Perry is the favored spot for a non-military flight school. If that becomes reality, considerable work will be started at Perry's small but comfortable landing field to make it unable for the new purpose. That will not create any special problems for customers arriving or departing.

They won't be on regular flights and most of them will not be on charter flights, but they can reach just about any destination by leaving here and avoiding the problems now being experienced at the state's two largest airfields. That's another plus for those of us who live here because of the advantages Perry has to offer.

If you're looking for some light reading with historical implications, find a copy of the current "Chronicles of Oklahoma," published by the Oklahoma Historical Society and enjoy the articles it contains. One in particular should be of interest to folks in Noble county. It is entitled "Householder Fruit Farm," and it tells the story of a pioneer family who settled in the

Guthrie area after the April land run in 1889. The Householders were long-time Logan county developers, and their story makes good reading on a chilly autumn night.

Of course, the little book contains a lot more in addition to that article, and all of them should be of interest to people in this area who like to learn how our ancestors found sustenance in this area when the Great Land Runs gave them a place to live back there in the nineteenth century.

One note of criticism regarding this particular issue: The dark green background makes the cover art almost impossible to see. All in all, however, it's a good piece of work.