## Crime wave greets new year 1-4-82

# Hog rustlers apprehended

The new year was off to a quick start for crime in Cloud County as four men were arrested for stealing pigs, a Concordia man was arrested during a burglary at Palmquist Drug Store, and a Concordia man's pickup was vandalized as it sat unattended in a private parking lot. Five men were taken into police custody as a result of the weekend incidents.

Two Concordia men and two men from Topeka were arrested by Cloud County sheriff's officers Saturday following a hog rustling incident overnight. They were to be arraigned later today on 14 counts charging them with burglary and theft.

The four, John F. Geisler, 20, 422 E. 2nd, Concordia; Steven E. Kinder, 23, 516 E. 2nd, Concordia, and Greg R. Fisher, 20, and James P. Ray, 23, both of Topeka, were arrested by Cloud County sheriff's officers Saturday after a search of the Geisler residence convinced authorities that the four men were responsible for the theft of three hogs belonging to Robert and Donald Collins and had butchered the animals. Officers found instruments for slaughter and recovered the three carcasses in searching the residence.

Officers credited the new fallen snow with assisting them in locating the suspects after the Collinses reported Saturday morning that three hogs had been shot and taken from their pen north of Concordia. The hogs were valued at $200.

Officers were able to track the suspects from the Collins pen and later determined where the hogs had been taken to be butchered. They obtained a search warrant to search the Geisler residence and later arrested the three suspects.

Fisher and Geisler were released from custody after posting $500 bond. Ray and Kinder were still being held in Cloud County Jail on $1,000 bond awaiting arraignment later this afternoon.

The fifth man arrested by local authorities over the weekend, Wesley Anderson, 21, Concordia, was arrested as he attempted to leave Palmquist Drug Store, 6th and Washington, about 4 a. m. Saturday. Officers, tipped off by the store's burglar alarm arrived at the scene to apprehend the suspect attempting to leave the store. Nearly $90 in cash taken from one of the cash registers was recovered.

Police report that the burglar apparently entered the building by breaking out a glass door at the west side of the store. Marshal George Warburton, Police Detective San Budreau and Deputy Pete Pellant arrested the suspect as he attempted to leave the building through the front door.

Anderson was being held in the Cloud County jail today on $3,000 bond awaiting arraignment.

Police are still looking for a suspect who threw a rock through the rear window of a pickup belonging to Larry Peery, 16th and Spruce, as it was parked in a private parking lot Friday. The rock broke the window and split the vehicle's padded dashboard causing an estimated $300 damage.

# City Makes Plans To Purchase Ambulance

Kansan 1-7-82

A new city ambulance is in store for Concordia according to action taken Wednesday afternoon during the Concordia City Commission meeting. The commission authorized a sales contract and an application to the Kansas Board of Tax Appeals for approval of no-fund warrants.

Delivery of the ambulance is expected in late January after approval of the no-fund warrants.

City Manager Carl Metzger advised the commission he had been investigating the possibilities of a new ambulance for some time to replace the used 1970 Oldsmobile converted station wagon ambulance purchased in 1979 for $1,250. The unit is a backup ambulance now and has about 83,000 miles on it.

Further, the 1970 unit is not equipped to be an emergency vehicle and it cannot be waived for use as a Type II state approved vehicle. The city manager said the use of the older ambulance by transferring equipment from the principal ambulance is no longer permissible according to the results of a recent state inspection.

Metzger said attempts to find a used Type II modular ambulance by the city staff were futile as many of these are eight to ten years old.

The unit the staff found is available from American Fire Equipment Co., Salina, and is a demonstrator with about 3,500 miles on it. The 1981 Horton dual-wheel modular ambulance meets all state vehicle specifications for Type II ambulances, Metzger explained.

The city manager said the unit is being discounted $5,000 and the city may be saving as much as $10,000 over the total price of a brand new fully equipped 1982 model.

The modular unit — made by Horton is on a Ford chassis. The chassis can be removed from the module when worn out and a new chassis purchased for around $10,000 while a new van ambulance may cost $40,000 by then. The current van ambulance—now the first-line unit, will be retained as the back-up unit and will also be a federal and state approved unit.

The contract with American Fire Equipment is to purchase the demonstrator unit for $36,953 plus a daily rent of $13.24 beginning Dec. 30, to hold the unit until the no-fund warrants are approved. City Attorney David Retter said he had been in contact with the state board of appeals and he believed the city application would be heard the week of Jan. 25.

The total amount of the no-fund warrants will be $40,000 to cover purchase of the basic materials and equipment including the police frequency radio.

City Manager Metzger said the repayment of the no-fund warrants will be made from reserves and from income received from the city sales tax levy. He pointed out, "No additional ad valorem (property) tax requirement will result as a consequence of this purchase."

The 1970 Oldsmobile ambulance will be sold or auctioned off, hopefully to a hospital, nursing home or other medical unit wanting to use it only for transferring patients.

**Other Business**

The commission approved the special assessments on the street improvement project on Crescent Lane and Sunset Trail in Lost Creek Hills addition. A total of $69,781 was assessed to the property owners in the benefit district and the city-at-large will pay $2,995.60. No one appeared at the public hearing on the special assessments.

Visitors at the meeting were Dennis Rohr, police chief; Jack Fisher, fire chief, and Jolene Springer. Both of the chiefs, charged with providing ambulance personnel, backed up the commission's decision to purchase a new ambulance to replace the 1970 vehicle.

1-11-82

# Candidates file for commission

Two Concordia men have entered the race for a position on the city commission, according to Verna Scott, city clerk.

Mrs. Scott said that Dale Busby today filed a petition seeking the position on the commission and that Ernest Girard has paid the $10.00 filing fee placing his name in nomination.

The two are seeking the position currently occupied by Wilbur Naylor.

# City purchases new ambulance

1-7-82

The Concordia city commission yesterday authorized the issuance of no fund warrants not to exceed $40,000 to purchase a new modular ambulance.

The new ambulance will replace the 1970 Oldsmobile backup ambulance and will give the city two Type II ambulances authorized to respond to emergency situations. The current backup ambulance can only be used for pre-scheduled, non-emergency transportation.

City manager Carl Metzger pointed out that five years ago the city instituted a program of equipment and vehicle replacement which has met the needs of the city for smaller pieces of equipment and vehicles, but which has not been able to meet the needs of larger equipment such as street sweepers, fire trucks or ambulances. He said the new street sweeper and a new fire truck have been purchased through no-fund warrants. The debt service on these vehicles resulted in an increase in the ad valorem taxes in the succeeding years after the purchases.

Metzger emphasized that a long term remedy has been developed for the problem with the passage of the one-half of one percent sales tax and that a reserve account has been established for these needs. He said that for 1982 transfers to each reserve account will be made in the amount of $12,000 which will eliminate the necessity of levying any additional ad valorem tax to pay for the purchase of the second ambulance.

The new ambulance being purchased by the city is a 1981 Horton dual-wheel demonstrator ambulance with approximately 3,500 miles at a cost of $40,000 including all necessary equipment. To purchase the same vehicle new with all of the equipment would be approximately $49,000.00.

Metzger pointed out that the major advantage of purchasing a modular type ambulance is that the chassis can be removed from the ambulance modular when worn out and a new chassis purchased for significantly less than a new ambulance. For example, he said, a new chassis for this vehicle might cost $10,000 in five years.

In other business the commissioners approved the final costs and authorized the assessment of the costs for the improvement of portions of Crescent Lane and Susnet Trail in Lost Creek Hills addition. The final cost of the project was $69,781.00 with the city-at-large paying 3.7 percent or $2,995.60.

The commissioners authorized the issuance of an operation and maintenance assurance statement covering improvements in the city park which were funded by federal funds. The assurance statement is required each year and must be submitted to the Kansas State Park and Resources Authority.

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

# City's reported crime down 21 percent in 1981

1-8-82

The number of reported crimes in Concordia dropped 21 percent over the number of crimes reported the previous year, according to figures released this week by Concordia Police Chief Dennis Rohr. This continued a four-year trend during which the number of reported crimes has decreased each year.

A decrease in nearly every category of criminal activity was reflected in the overall crime decrease. There were 283 criminal offenses reported to Concordia police in 1981 compared to 355 reported in 1980, 457 in 1979, and 517 reported in 1978. Burglaries, thefts, vandalism and robberies were all down. Forgeries and assault and batteries were the only areas in which increases were reported. Both are relatively low incidence crimes. Assault and batteries were up from five to six and forgeries were up from four to five.

The number of burglaries and thefts has declined steadily over the past four years, Rohr reported. Burglaries have dropped from 66 reported in 1978 to 37 reported in 1979, to 28 reported in 1980 to 20 reported in 1981. The number of reported thefts has dropped from 268 in 1878, to 190 in 1979, to 149 in 1980, to 119 this past year. The number of reported cases of vandalism dropped from an all-time high of 206 in 1979, to 166 in 1980, to 132 cases last year. These three areas account for the largest incidence of crime.

Police cleared 91 cases and filed charges against 76 individuals in 1981. Those charged included 64 adults and 12 juveniles, a figure which Rohr pointed out was rather unusual in that the number of juveniles arrested and charged was lower than in recent years. For example in 1980, 23 juveniles were charged with crimes. Juveniles are either committing fewer offenses or are not being caught as often as they used to.

Despite the decrease in reported crimes, the number of persons to serve time in the Cloud County jail decreased only slightly from 183 prisoners in 1980 to 172 prisoners in 1981. Rohr pointed out however, that those figures represented people arrested and placed in jail and did not represent prisoners serving court-imposed sentences.

Police also investigated fewer traffic accidents and issued fewer traffic citations in 1981. Only 368 accidents were investigated compared with 418 in 1980. Traffic citations were down from 546 to 1980 to 489 in 1981.

The number of citations given for driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs jumped from 12 in 1980 to 20 last year.

The number of ambulance calls was also down, from 381 in 1980 to 358 in 1981.

# Elderly to receive aid in preparing tax forms

1-12-82

Free Income Tax Assistance is available to elderly, low income, and handicapped persons in this area. The Tax Counseling for the Elderly program: (TCE) is providing assistance with federal and state tax returns and with Homestead and Food Sales Tax Refunds.

The TCE program is sponsored by the North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging and the American Association of Retired Persons-National Retired Teachers Association. Trained volunteers will assist older, low income, and handicapped persons in filing tax returns. In preparing these tax returns, the volunteers assist the taxpayer in taking advantage of several specialized tax benefits including credit for the elderly, disability income exclusion, capital gains, and sale of personal residence. Volunteers can also assist with special treatment of partially taxable pensions and interest from All Saver Certificates.

These volunteers will be available at the Concordia Senior Citizen Center, 109 W. 7th, Concordia: Boyd Dochow, 243-4266; Sharon Davis, 243-7028; Elgin Denio, 243-7028 or (439-6251 Jamestown).

The program will start today, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and continue on Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Precautions suggested

1-15-82

The Concordia city water department urges area residents to take precautions to prevent service line freeze-ups as the temperature plunges again this weekend. Insulation tape on pipes, and heaters in areas where pipes are subject to freeze are suggested. Persons who choose to let faucets drip or water run in an attempt to prevent pipes from freezing are reminded that this is one of the moths the cityuses to figure its sewer customer charges for the year.

## Car theft victims to be questioned

1-15-82

Concordia and Cloud County law enforcement officers are seeking reports from persons who might have been victims of thefts from automobiles between October 1980 and August 1981.

The information is requested to confirm a confession of a suspect who has admitted to at least 25 unreported thefts.

Concordia police chief Dennis Rohr said that a recent investigation resulted in the confession by a suspect. He said that the confession of the 25 or more unreported thefts points out the need for the public to report crimes to the police when they occur.

KANSAN 1-14-82

# Two Candidates File For City Commissioner

Two Concordia men filed for the office of Concordia City Commissioner Monday, Jan. 11, reports City Clerk Verna Scott. Dale W. Busby filed as a candidate by presenting a petition and Ernest Girard filed by paying the $10 filing fee.

Busby, 28, is a native of Concordia and is employed as a staff announcer at KNCK-KCKS radio station. He also is a former Cloud County deputy sheriff; is an army veteran. He graduated in 1971 from Concordia High School and has attended several colleges and universities including KU and Cloud County Community College. He is the son of former Concordian Robert W. Busby, Hutchinson, and the late Mary Alice Busby. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Culbertson of Concordia. He is a member of the Baptist Church.

He and his wife Gail are parents of three children: Robert 8, Maryanne 7, and Miranda 6.

Girard is a repairman for Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. and a past member of the USD 333 Board of Education.

The filing deadline to become a city commission candidate is Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 12 noon. The city general election is April 6 and if a primary is necessary it will be held March 9.

The seat up for election this year is now held by Wilbur Naylor.

Ernest Girard

Dale W. Busby

1-21-82 KANSAN

# Board of Education Hires Superintendent

John Dale Watson, 43, has been selected as superintendent of schools for Unified School District 333 replacing Harold M. Clark who will retire in August. The final agreement with Watson was approved by the USD 333 Board of Education at their meeting Monday night.

Dr. Watson will assume his position here Aug. 1. He currently is serving as superintendent at Cherokee, which is southwest of Pittsburg.

Watson was born in Holden, Okla., Jan. 20, 1939. He graduated from Medicine Lodge, Kan. High School and then attended Pratt Community College one year.

The new superintendent has an impressive educational background. He received his bachelor's degree from Panhandle State University, Goodwell, Okla. in 1962 with his major in industrial arts and minors in math and science. He received his master of arts degree from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colo., in 1966 with a major in educational administration. In 1973 he received the specialist in education degree from Fort Hays State University with his major in educational administration. He completed the requirements for the Doctor of Education degree at Oklahoma State University in July, 1980.

John D. Watson

Dr. Watson began his teaching career in Arriba High School, Arriba, Colo. in 1962. He was principal at Rolla (Kan.) High School from 1966 to 1971. He became superintendent of Schools in Trumbull, Neb. in 1971; and went to USD 247 at Cherokee in 1974.

He and his wife Judy were married in 1962. They have two daughters, Jonna 16 and Janae 13, and a son, Jarred, 9.

1-22-82

## Prayer breakfast Monday

The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 7 a.m. in the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Past mayors of Concordia have been sent a special invitation to join Lee Doyen our present mayor to be recognized.

Cartoonist Don Musick will present a fine program. The Methodist Men will again provide a delicious country style breakfast. The $2.00 tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce and Concordia churches. This annual event is sponsored by the Governmental Affairs Division of the Chamber. The public is invited.

# TV application made

1-19-82 Blade Weekly

The Concordia Blade-Empire is filing an application with the Federal Communications Commission for a low power television translator station, according to managing editor Brad Lowell.

Lowell said that the license if approved will give the Blade-Empire the authority to broadcast with a 10 watt transmitter on channel 6. He said that the proposed VHF operation will bring 5,150 households in Cloud County and southern Republic County a unique television service.

Lowell said that after the application is approved, which could take as long as a year, the Blade will work gradually into the broadcasting field. Initially, a character generator will be put into operation which will convert local stories into text which will be broadcast over the television transmitter.

Eventually, the company will have its own studio and will broadcast news, sports and perhaps even local entertainment, Lowell said.

Lowell said that low power television is an exciting new field and has many possibilities. "We've not studied all of the possibilities and the revenue potential, but we wanted to get the license nailed down so we could be in a position to grow with the industry and provide the area with its first television station," Lowell said.

"This is such a new field and the technology is changing so rapidly there is just no telling where it might go in the future," Lowell said. "Some people in the industry believe that it has more potential than FM radio," he said. "During the months before the application is granted, we will study the potential and attempt to be in operation as soon after the authority is granted as possible."

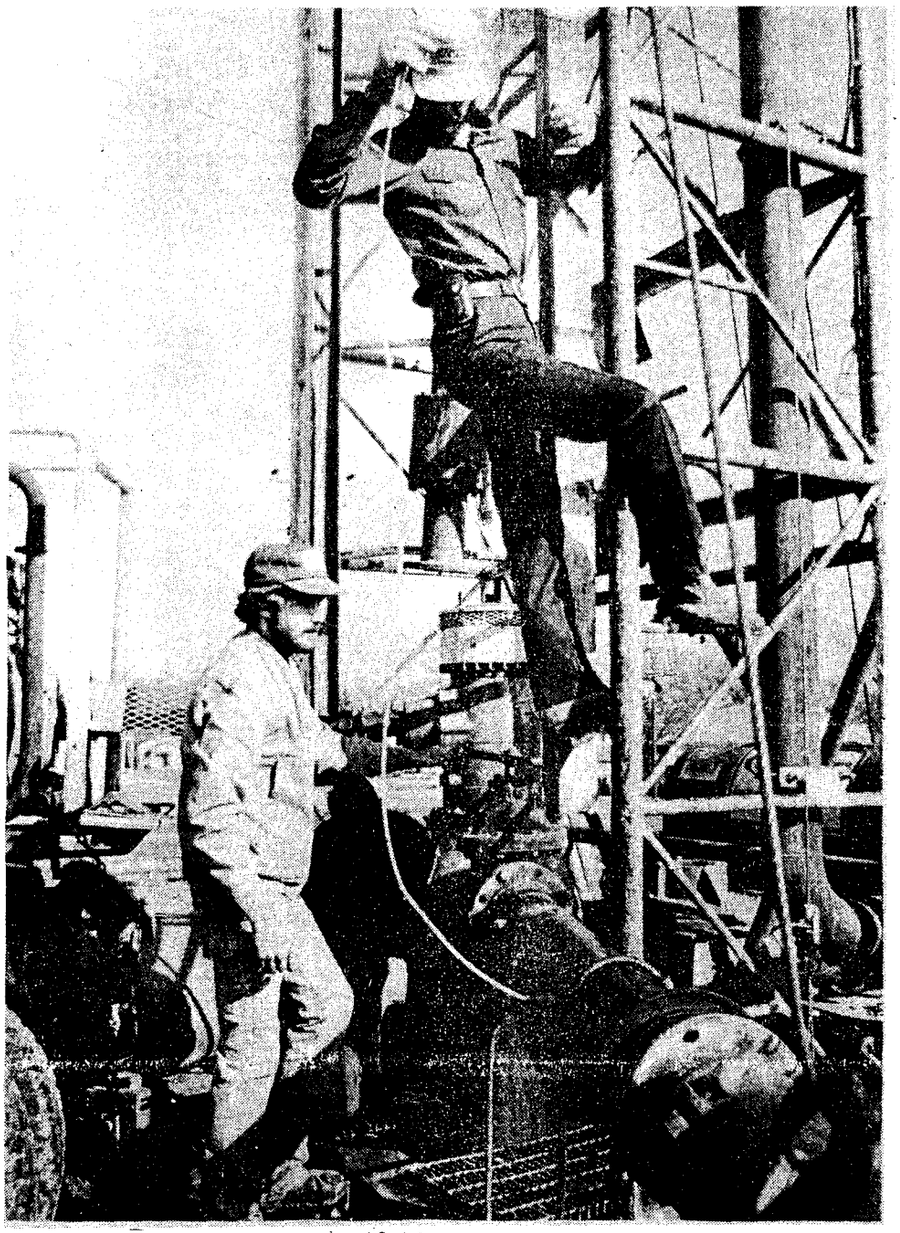
## Need help

BLADE WEEKLY 1-19-82

Concordia and Cloud County law enforcement officers are seeking reports from persons who might have been victims of thefts from automobiles between October 1980 and August 1981.

The information is requested to confirm a confession of a suspect who has admitted to at least 25 unreported thefts.

Concordia police chief Dennis Rohr said that a recent investigation resulted in the confession by a suspect. He said that the confession of the 25 or more unreported thefts points out the need for the public to report crimes to the police when they occur.



***Everything going well*** 1-19-82

Workmen for Layne Drilling Co., Wichita, inspect a site where they have completed drilling a new water well for the City of Concordia. The well site, which produced water 50 feet down, is located on the city truck parking lot near Third and Broadway. Here it is examined by Jeff Smith left, and Kelly McIntosh, right, employees of Layne Drilling Co. (Blade-Empire photo by Chris Black)

# City's financial condition improved

1-31-82

## City manager reports

City manager Carl Metzger said that the financial condition of the city is much improved over last year when the cash balance as of December 31 was only about $17,000.

He said that the carry over this year will be between $60,000 and $65,000 which exceeds earlier budget estimated of approximately $35,000.

Metzger said that changes in some financial policies and procedures along with the one half of one percent city sales tax have helped move the city toward a sound financial condition.

He said that revenues for 1981 were up only about one percent, but expenses were reduced by 10 percent primarily because all department heads made a concerted effort to keep expenses down.

Metzger said that city has also reviewed its insurance coverage which will save approximately $6,500 this year and gone to competitive bidding on gasoline and diesel fuel which could result in a savings of approximately $4,000.

Metzger said that investment income during 1981 increased by $21,000 because of higher interest rates and a new policy of investing in the previously unused short term market. He said that of the $21,000 increases, $14,000 can be attributed to higher interest rates, while the other $7,000 came from the short term investment market.

The city manager said that the city received its first two sales tax payments from the state amounting to a total of $16,200. He said that the first check was only $3,100, which represented only part of a month. The first full month payment was for $13,100, which exceeds the estimated monthly income of $10,000.

The city manager said that it's always nice when revenues exceed expenditures and when the city has enough capital to carry over into a new year to have sufficient funds for operation until the new tax levy money begins to arrive.

Metzger also told the commissioners that the water and sewer rates are being reviewed and that unfortunately it appears there will have to be an upward adjustment of rates to take care of increased operating costs and debt service.

In other business the commissioners approved an ordinance authorizing the establishment of a special fund to be used to pay for the new modular ambulance the city is purchasing. Metzger said that the ordinance needed to be passed before the city appears before the State Board of Tax Appeals seeking the issuance of no fund warrants to purchase the new vehicle.

# Financial Outlook for City Improves Some

KANSAN 1-21-82

City Manager Carl Metzger expressed optimism Wednesday at the future outlook of city finances. The brief verbal report came following the city commission business meeting yesterday.

Action taken by the commission included approval of an ordinance establishing a special fund in the 1982 budget for replacement of ambulance or emergency medical service equipment. City Manager Metzger explained the action was needed prior to the city's appearance before the Kansas Board of Tax Appeals Jan. 26, when they will be requesting permission to purchase a new modular ambulance with up to $40,000 in no-fund warrants. Monthly payments over a five-year period will retire the warrants using income produced by the city's one-half percent sales tax.

Also, the commission approved the sole bid of 10.75% interest from First Bank and Trust for purchase of the $40,000 in no-fund warrants. Metzger said this action also should be taken before the hearing in Topeka so the city can show the exact cost of the financing.

**Better Financial Picture**

The 1981 investment report issued by the city staff was one of the reasons for the city manager's optimism on the financial outlook. He reported the city's investment income—on idle funds — increased approximately $21,000 last year. Of this amount, $14,000 resulted from higher interest rates paid on CD's and other investment vehicles. The other $7,000 came from further streamlining the investment program and allowing the city clerk to invest in short-term repurchase agreements.

However, City Manager Metzger pointed out this kind of earnings is only possible through the cooperation of local financial institutions and the county who distributes more of the tax funds earlier in the year.

Other financial information—and savings—were evident after the city's books for 1981 were closed Dec. 31. Metzger said the improvements resulted in changes in policies and procedures.

The one-half percent sales began last fall resulted in $13,100 income for the first full month plus $3,100 partial payment for the first month of September but this amount did not include the entire first month because of state accounting and payment procedures. The city manager pointed out that $120,000 income is projected in the 1982 budget and the first full month indicates the city will receive more than that amount, thus resulting in a cash carry-over for 1983. At the present Metzger is optimist that the city may again be able to reduce the property taxes for the 1983 budget.

The city manager indicated that revenues were up approximately 1% over projects for 1981 while a spending cut reduced expenditures about 10%. A year ago it was indicated the city's cash carry-over was $17,000 while at the start of 1982 $43,000 was carried over. He said the cash carry-over has been less each year for about the past ten years until this year.

Another savings came when the staff reviewed the city's insurance program and saved about $6,000 by combining some policies and increasing deductible amounts.

Metzger said the city also saved approximately $4,000 in his estimation, on fuel costs by going to a monthly bidding system.

There was no doubt the city manager had a much brighter picture concerning city finances than 18 months and a year ago.

On the pessimist side, the city manager warned that water and sewer rates are currently under study and a recommendation will come in about a month. The recommendation will probably be for an increase in these rates.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Busby were visitors at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned to the study session scheduled for Jan. 28 at 12:15 p.m.

# Naylor will not seek re-election to commission

1-26-82

Concordia City Commissioner Wilbur Naylor announced today that he will not seek re-election in this spring's city commission race. Naylor, a retired district conservatioinist with the USDA Soil Conservation Service, had served one term on the commission.

He served as Concordia Mayor from 1980 to 1981.

Two candidates have already filed for election to Naylor's seat on the commission. Dale Busby, 28, an employee of radio station KNCK-KCKS, and Ernest Girard, 54, an employee of Southwestern Bell Telephone in Concordia, filed their candidacies earlier this month.

The filing deadline for candidates is Tuesday, Feb. 2 at noon. The general election will be held April 6. If more than the two candidates who have already filed enter the race, a primary will be scheduled in March to narrow the field to two candidates for the general election.

# Concordia woman dies in fire

A 25-year-old Concordia woman died Thursday afternoon in a fire which caused extensive damage to the interior of her parents' home.

Terri Lynne Vignery was apparently asleep in an upstairs bedroom of the house at 234 W. 7th when a fire broke out about 2 p. m. Her death is being attributed to smoke inhalation and asphyxiation.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation today, but it was believed the fire broke out in the living room area of the house, either from electrical wiring, or possibly from a heating pad found in the living room area. An inspector from the state fire marshal's office was in Concordia today assisting with the investigation.

The young woman was alone in the house when the fire started. Her mother had left the house about 1:05 p. m. and arrived home moments before the fire department arrived. There were unconfirmed reports that several passers-by noted heavy black smoke coming from the chimney of the house, but the fire was reported to the fire department by a neighbor at 2:14 p. m.

When firemen arrived at the house, extreme heat and smoke prevented them from entering it immediately. It took firemen nearly a half hour to bring the fire under control and locate the young woman's body in her second floor bedroom.

Cloud County Sheriff Fred Modlin said it appeared she may have awakened and tried to get out of the house since her body was found on the floor alongside the bed in her room at the northwest corner of the house. The smoke, however, was apparently thick enough to have overcome her almost immediately. She was later pronounced dead at the scene by County Coroner Dr. Thayne A. Coulter.

Modlin said family members told officers that it was not uncommon for the young woman to nap throughout the afternoon, and she apparently just did not wake up in time to have escaped from the burning house.

Terri Lynne Vignery, was born Feb. 24, 1956 in Concordia, the daughter of Adelore and Martha Hanson Vignery. She was a lifetime resident of Concordia and a member of the Episcopal Church.

She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adelore Vignery, Concordia; five brothers, Delmer, Lincoln; John, Gulf Port, Miss.; and David, Dick and Bill, all of Concordia.

BLADE-WEEKLY 1-26-82

1-26-82

***Meeting of mayors***

**Concordia Mayor Lee Doyen, right, greeted guests at this morning's Mayor's Prayer Breakfast including special guests, nearly a dozen of the city's former mayors. Included among the former mayors, was Charles Blosser, shown here with his wife Isabell. Blosser, who served as Concordia mayor from 1931 to 1933, was the senior-most former mayor at this year's gathering sponsored by the Governmental Affairs Division of the Chamber of Commerce. Cartoonist Don Musick presented this morning's program.**

# New steak house to open downtown

2-2-82

Tiffany Steak House will be the name of a new restaurant to open soon in Concordia. The owners, George Koutsougeras and Toni Farmakoulas, have leased the building at 101 W. 6th St., formerly Maley's IGA, from Mrs. Ruth Carlgren of Concordia.

Koutsougeras and Farmakoulas, both formerly of Athens, Greece, have had several years of experience in the restaurant business in the United States, according to Mrs. Carlgren. Most recently, Koutsougeras has managed a restaurant in Hiawatha.

The restaurant will offer a varied menu, including steaks, pizza and sandwiches. There will be booth seating for 100 people in the dining room, in addition to a large party room for private parties and dinners.

Remodeling work on the building will begin immediately and the owners hope to open Tiffany Steak House in two months, according to Mrs. Carlgren.

# Concordia Job Center slated to close, receives reprieve

2-2-82

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Seventeen Job Service Centers across Kansas, scheduled to be closed Friday, have won a temporary reprieve.

Gov. John Carlin on Tuesday directed the Kansas Department of Human Resources not to close the job employment centers pending possible action by Congress which might restore federal funding.

The centers are in Abilene, Colby, Concordia, El Dorado, Goodland, Great Bend, Independence, Junction City, Liberal, McPherson, Newton, Olathe, Overland Park, Parsons, Ulysses, Wellington and Kansas City, Kan.

In December, Carlin announced the closing of 17 Job Service Centers and also five work incentive program offices because of anticipated federal budget cuts.

The five WIN offices are to be closed as scheduled. They are in Dodge City, Manhattan, Olathe, Parsons and Salina.

Employment and job training are provided for welfare recipients under the federal WIN program.

Carlin announced he was delaying the Job Service Center closings because a $210 million amendment to restore Job Service funding was submitted to Congress last week.

Carlin said he would contact the Kansas congressional delegation and urge passage of the amendment. However, if the measure fails the centers will be closed as previously announced, he said.

When Carlin announced the closings in December, he was criticized by U.S. Rep. Pat Roberts, R-Kansas, who called the governor's decision premature because of uncertainties about federal funding.

# Hardee's pick Concordia for new restaurant

2-1-82

Hardee's Food Systems, Inc. will be opening a fast food restaurant in Concordia according to an announcement by Leo Eisenberg & Co., Kansas City, Mo.

Hardee's has purchased a 30,000 sq. ft. tract of land at the Concordia Plaza Shopping Center at 17th and Lincoln and will construct a 4,000 sq. ft. restaurant with a drive-up window. Construction will begin this spring with the opening of the restaurant scheduled for the summer of this year.

Rod Jones of Leo Eisenberg & Co. negotiated the land sale between Concordia Plaza Development Co. and Hardee's Franchise, Kansas-Oklahoma Division, which operates 35 restaurants in Kansas and Oklahoma. The Eisenberg firm is the developer, leasing and management agent for Concordia Plaza.

Concordia Plaza opened in August of 1980 and the tenants at the 53,850 sq. ft. center are TG&Y, Swafford Pharmacy, Bostwick's, Gizzmo's and Meller's Photo Labs.

# City will hire director for economic development

2-4-82

The Concordia city commission yesterday approved the hiring of a fulltime director of industrial and economic development and the establishment of a seven-member Industrial Development Advisory Commission.

City manager Carl Metzger in recommending the moves to the commissioners said the hiring of a fulltime director and the establishment of the advisory commission are necessary steps to respond to the changing needs of the citizens of Concordia and the evolving relationship between local government and the business community. He said that an analysis by a concerned group of Concordians of the local conditions and needs led the participants to support a two-faceted strategy with primary focus on retention and expansion of existing industry and secondly on recruitment of new industries to Concordia which will compliment existing businesses.

Metzger said that the funding for the new program will be derived from the industrial development tax levy and city general funds. The total estimated cost to run this program during its first year is $28,000, he said. "This figure includes the salary for the director of industrial and economic development, travel, advertising and all activities associated with retention, recruitment and promotion of business and industry in Concordia," he said.

Metzger said the director will be recruited locally, if possible, and will be hired by the city manager and employed by the city. "This position will replace the assistant city manager's position which was vacated last November, Metzger said. "The director's primary role will be to encourage industrial and commercial development and consequently, it will be important that the director be skilled in development analysis and have a good understanding of real estate markets and development finances."

Metzger said that the expertise of the person filling the staff position is probably the single most important determinate of the program's activities as well as its success.

The Industrial Development Advisory Commission will be composed of seven members. The Industrial Development Associaton Board of directors and the Chamber of Commerce board of directors will jointly recommend to the city commission five members to this commission. The city manager and one city commissioner will sit on this commission as ex-officio members. The commission will aid in policy development and industrial promotion and will establish and recommend to the city manager job objectives, a job description and job qualifications for the position of the director of Industrial and Economic Development.

The commission also will function in an advisory capacity to the director. The new emphasis on industrial and economic defelopment will stress coordination of activities and programs through the office of the Director of Industrial and Economic Development. The director's primary role will be to encourage industrial and commercial development.

Metzger said that Concordia's experience over the past few years illustrates several important points about industrial and economic development. "First, it is a long term process in which many of the successes such as a business decides not to leave or good will developed between City Hall and the business owner are difficult for the average citizen to notice," he said. "Second, a lot of time and effort is expended providing assistance to potential businesses which choose not to locate in the community. Third, attracting new industry involves a strong commitment from the private sector and local government to coordinate local industrial and economic development efforts. Fourth, the commitment to retention and expansion of existing businesses must be given the same high priority as recruitment of new industries. Finally, the goals of the industrial and economic development program must be straightforward in design and in practice," Metzger said.

Metzger said the primary goal of this program is to increase the local tax base through industrial and economic growth as it seeks to diversify the community's economic base in terms of specific kinds of industry. "The time and effort involved in operating this program generates tangible benefits such as jobs and an increased tax base and intangible benefits such as the good will of industries and professionals who work with the town," Metzger said.

Metzger said that industrial and economic development programs in Concordia have traditionally involved a partnership between the public and private sectors. The goal of this partnership has been to increase job opportunities, encourage taxable growth and meet the needs of current and prospective businesses, he said. "Methods used to accomplish these goals have been subjected to an intensive examination and critical review with the objective of charting a new course for local, economic and industrial development in Concordia for the 1980's" he said. "Involved in this re-evaluation process were the city commission, the city manager, Chamber of Commerce board of directors and the Industrial Development Association board of directors. The outcome of numerous meetings and lengthy discussion has been the development of this new industrial and economic development strategy for Concordia in the 1980's that is endorsed by all participants," he said.

Metzger said that the program should be in effect for at least three years. "We can't expect a windfall from this program, because it take a lot of long, hard work to achieve any positive results," he said. "It may appear to some that the cost of the program is high, but those involved believe that the risk is worth taking and that the benefits will outweigh these risks," he said.

Ray Houser, who has served as chairman of the ad hoc committee which has been studying industrial development in Concordia, said that the committee has come up with a job profile and job description and is in the process of developing a portfolio on the community. He said that the members of the committee are willing to spend whatever time and energy that is necessary to improve the economic condition of the community.

Others serving on the committee have been Bill Lagemann, Bob Steimel, Danny Farha, and Dana Brewer, Houser said.

Commissioner Greg Hattan, who has been attending the committee's meetings, said that he has been impressed with the positive approach the committee has taken and noted that they already have contacted a number of local industries to determine their needs.

In other business the commissioners approved an ordinance directing the repair and resurfacing of Broadway, Washington, State, and Cedar, Third and Second Streets at the railroad crossings at an estimated cost of $63,693.00. The construction will repair and resurface the street approaches at the railroad intersections, according to Metzger.

The commissioners approved an interlocal agreement with the county for joint occupancy of the law enforcement center.

A resolution was approved changing the cable television franchise agreement from Cablecom General to Capitol Cities Cable of Delaware, Inc. Metzger explained that approximately one year ago Capitol Cities acquired control of Cablecom General and that the only change which would be noticed in Concordia was a change in the name on the billing to Capitol Cities, Inc.

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky

## City Planning For Industrial Development

The Concordia City Commission took positive action at its meeting Wednesday afternoon to beef-up the local industrial and economic development programs.

The action taken was creation of an Industrial Advisory Commission composed of five appointed members and two ex-officio members—the city manager and a member of the city commission.

The IAC will be responsible to the city commission and one of its first duties will be to hire a person to act as director of industrial and economic development. This activity is also endorsed by the city commission.

City Manager Carl Metzger reported about the director. "The persons filling this position will be recruited locally, if possible, and will be hired by the city manager and employed by the city. This position will replace the assistant city manager's position vacated last November."

Metzger said the director's primary role will be to encourage industrial and commercial development working closely with existing businesses to help encourage expansion, and be the contact person for industrial prospects. In the past this type of

(Continued on Page Eight)

### Other Business

In other business the city commission approved the transfer of the cable TV franchise from Cablecom-General, Inc. to Capitol Cities Communication, Inc. Capitol Cities acquired control of Cablecom-General which was owned by RKO General, Inc. The transfer of the franchise was a procedural matter and does not affect operation of the local CATV.

The commission also took action to finance the $63,693 it cost to bring up to grade the railroad crossings along 4th street at several intersections.

Mayor Doyen signed a proclamation designating Feb. 7 to 13 as "Scouting Anniversary Week." Fourteen local Scouts and six leaders were on hand to witness the signing.

Dale Busby was also a visitor at the meeting yesterday.

The commission adjourned to Feb. 11 at 12:15 p.m. for a study session and conference with Charles Blosser concerning acquiring portions of Blosser real estate for city use.

## —Commission

(Continued from Page One)

2-4-82

industrial development has been taking place here for a number of years but primarily through the Chamber of Commerce and on a volunteer basis. The new fulltime director will have the opportunity to spend more time in this area as well as travel to visit with outside industrial prospects.

"The expertise of the person filling this staff position is probably the single most important determinate of the program's activities as well as its success," said City Manager Metzger. This is one area the IA Commission can be of assistance, in helping find a suitable person and make recommendations.

Funding for this program will come from the Industrial Development Fund tax levy that has been in use for a number of years, plus money from the city general funds. The city manager estimates the cost of the program during the first year at $28,000. However, in future years the cost may run as high as $50,000 but by then if the program is working the tax base will be broader. The $28,000 will include salary of the director, travel, advertising and all activities associated with retention, recruitment and promotion of business and industry in Concordia.

The Industrial Advisory Commission, although not yet officially named, has already begun functioning. Ray Houser is the unofficial chairman and other appointive members are Bill Lagemann, Bob Steimel, Dana Brewer, and Dan Farha. City Commissioner Greg Hattan has been meeting with the group.

Houser was at the Wednesday meeting and said the commission is willing to devote whatever time and resources needed, go anywhere and meet with anyone interested in expanding the local job market. He also said they main concern will be helping existing businesses expand and trying to recruit new business and industry.

Commissioner Hattan said he has been impressed with the positive approach of the people on the advisory group and this is a "good sign" that progress can be made.

The IAC group members were recommended by the boards of the Concordia Industrial Development Association and the Chamber of Commerce.

The city commission adopted an ordinance creating the IA Commission and approved a resolution authorizing the city manager to establish a new department head level position—Director of Industrial and Economics Development.

# Citizens assist in arrest of purse snatching suspect

2-4-82

Donald Stalkfleet, 27, Concordia, is being held in connection with a strong armed robbery which occured yesterday afternoon at approximately 12:45.

The victim, Lona Winstead, said she was walking north on Broadway near the railroad tracks when a man wearing a white mask knocked her down and took her purse, which contained more than $200.00 in cash. She said the man ran west on 3rd Street.

Royce and Brenda Bruntzel, who were at 5th and Broadway, saw the incident and picked up the victim and proceeded to follow the suspect, according to police. The police say the Bruntzels chased the suspect to a car which was parked at 200 W. 5th. They then secured the help of Kenny Cyr, an employee at Gould Implement, and prevented the suspect from escaping. Royce Bruntzel parked his pickup behind the suspect's car and Cyr kept the suspect from leaving his car.

Police chief Dennis Rohr said that police were summoned to the scene and arrested Stalkfleet. A search warrant was obtained and a search of the car revealed the missing purse and some marijuana, according to Rohr.

The suspect is being held in jail pending official charges.

Chief Rohr said that the citizens involved apprehending the suspect and helped track him down are to be commended. "It is this kind of concern and assistance which makes our jobs easier and helps put criminals behind bars!" Rohr said.

# Fuller seeking return of unclaimed money

2-5-82

State Representative Bill Fuller R-Miltonvale is seeking to return $18,177 to 425 people in Cloud and Ottawa Counties. He seeks the assistance of the public in providing addresses of the owners or their heirs of this "unclaimed property." Representative Fuller has developed lists of names for each community in his district and has provided copies to each mayor, city clerk and county clerk, treasurer and commissioner. In addition, he will provide lists to any citizen upon request.

In 1979 the Kansas Legislature passed the Unclaimed Property Act. Today 48 states have such statutes. The legislation was designed to protect unclaimed property and return it to the true owners or their heirs. The State Treasurer is custodian of this property on behalf of the owner. There is no time limit on claiming your money from the state. If the property is interest bearing, interest will be paid by the state at the rate it was earning at the time it was remitted to the state.

Unclaimed property includes: savings accounts, checking accounts, unpaid wages or commisisons, stocks, uncashed dividends, customer depoits or over-payments, certificate of deposits, credit balances, refunds, money orders, paid up life insurance policies, uncashed death benefit checks and liquor pool balances.

Unclaimed property is remitted to the state only after three things have taken place:

1. No activity in the account for seven years.
2. The holder attempts to contact the owner.
3. The Treasurers office publishes the owners name.

Remitting the assets to the state means that the owner or their heirs have a single source to check for unclaimed properties—instead of trying to check with hundreds of banks, companies, etc.

You may write Representative Fuller at the Statehouse or call (913) 296-7684.

# Concordia helps Belleville fight fire

2-5-82

The Concordia fire department sent a truck and two firemen to Belleville Wednesday evening to assist fighting a fire at the Melton Motor Co. body shop which is adjacent to the downtown business square.

Concordia fire chief Jack Fisher said that the Belleville fire department was concerned that because of all of the inflammable chemicals and materials in the body shop that the fire might jump to the downtown area and the Concordia department was called for assistance. Chief Fisher said that Concordia and Belleville have an intergovernmental agreement to assist one another during emergencies.

Fisher said he did not know the extent of the damage other than the body shop was burned to the ground and that several other buildings were scorched.

# Crime down, clearance rate up

2-8-82

The number of crimes reported in Concordia during the month of January 1982 was down significantly from statistics of a year ago, but police kept busy compiling an unusually high clearance rate, Concordia Chief of Police Dennis Rohr reports.

Local police cleared 19 cases last month, several of them having remained on the books from 1981. The cases cleared included: five burglaries, seven bad check cases, a theft, three hit and runs, a criminal trespass and assault, a drug case, and an aggravated assault.

There were only 13 new cases added to police books in January 1982 compared with 31 cases reported in January 1981. Last month three burglaries, three misdemeanor thefts and seven incidents of vandalism were reported to police for total damages estimated at $1,850, compared to a year ago when one burglary, seven thefts and 23 incidents of vandalism resulted in losses of $5,829.

The number of traffic accidents worked by police increased significantly last month, from 29 in 1981 to 41 reported during January 1982. Rohr attributed the increase to "too much ice and snow."

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

# Welder may have caused fire

2-16-82

City crews thawing frozen water lines with a welder may have contributed to the cause of a fire Friday afternoon which caused extensive damage to electrical wiring and insulation at the Frank Wheeler home, 912 3rd Ave.

An investigation by city officials and Western Power engineers following the fire concluded that a city crew's use of a welder to thaw water lines in the area may have sent enough voltage from the city's water line to which the home's electrical system had been grounded into the house where its wiring began smoldering. Damage to the home's electrical wiring, insulation and smoke damage to the contents of the house were estimated at several thousand dollars. A final estimate of damage had not been determined, but early detection of the fire while it was still in a smoldering stage kept damage to a minimum.

City Manager Carl Metzger said this was the first time to his knowledge that the city's long-standing practice of thawing frozen water lines with a welding torch had contributed to a fire. He added that the practice was discontinued following the fire, leaving perhaps as many as eight to ten city water customers without water.

Metzger said it was commonplace for electrical and telephone lines in the city to be grounded to the city's water lines although nothing like the incident Friday had been reported in the past.

He said he did not know whether it was that nothing similar had ever occurred before or whether a connection had just never been drawn. At any rate, he said the city's use of the welder in thawing its water lines has been suspended until the matter is investigated further.

Metzger said the city planned to accept liability and pay for damages it may have caused in the Wheeler fire.

The fire at the Wheeler home also drew attention to another serious concern of city officials in that the Wheeler house is one of several homes on the west side of 3rd Avenue just outside the city limits. Although the house is connected to city utility lines, it is outside the city limits and is therefore outside the city fire department's jurisdiction. As a result, Friday's fire was responded to by firemen from Cloud County Rural Fire Department District No. 4.

Concordia city fire department equipment stood by at the scene as off-duty firemen helped pull burning insulation from the house, but the city's fire department stood by the city's policy of not sending its equipment outside the city limits on routine fire calls.

The fire, which was reported about 2 p.m. Friday, was brought under control within an hour.

# Concordia doing everything right 2-10-82

## KDED chief tells industrial groups

Charles "Jamie" Swartz, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Economic Development, yesterday said that as far as he could tell Concordia is doing everything it needs to do to attract new industry.

Swartz told stockholders of the Concordia Development Co. and members of the Concordia Industrial Development Association at the two organizations' annual meetings that Concordia is as well if not better prepared as any community in Kansas to attract new industry. "I've been impressed by the summations given here today by the heads of your two groups," he said.

Swartz said that he is hopeful that the economy has turned the corner and is on the rebound. "We at the Department of Economic Development are concerned that we be ready for this rebound and be in a position to help Kansas communities."

The secretary said that industrial growth is a long term proposition and Concordia should be proud of what it has accomplished. There are approximately 17,000 industrial development groups working to attract new industry each year and only about 6,000 industries looking for a place to expand, he pointed out.

Swartz explained that the KDED is the second smallest state agency and that it has no regulatory powers. "Our sole purpose is to support and give aid to Kansas businesses and to assist industries looking for a place to locate," he said.

Of the six divisions in the KDED the Industrial Development Division is the largest, he said. One of the shortcomings of this division is its small advertising budget which amounted to only $35,000 last year, he said. The governor has recommended that that portion of the budget be increased to $87,000 in the next fiscal year, he said.

"Kansas is ranked 47th among the 48 contiguous states in what it spends on economic development," Swartz said. "We have no place to go, but up. We will be attempting to coordinate our advertising effort with Kansas communities to help increase the amount of money spent on advertising," he added.

Swartz said that the KDED works closely with the Kansas Cavalry, a group of Kansans who travel to different industrial areas in an attempt to lure industry to the state. He said the Cavalry visited Europe in November and that he is tremendously encouraged by the response and that seven companies have already indicated an interest in the state.

Our job is to attract prospects to the state and then it is the community's job to sell the prospect on the community," he said.

One problem facing Kansas is that industry is interested in high unemployment areas and Kansas has a low unemployment rate. "However, we do rank first in employee productivity among the states and we do have a lot of underemployment," he said. "Industry is beginning to realize this and I think things will change."

Swartz recommended that those involved in industrial development in Concordia keep in close contact with the industrial prospectors in the KDED. "We don't target certain communities for growth, but it is a natural inclination to remember communities most on your mind when contacted by an industrial prospect," he said.

Swartz emphasized again that he was extremely impressed with Concordia and said he wouldn't hesitate bringing an industrial prospect here.

Swartz said of concern to the KDED is that fact that the state exports 25 to 30 percent of its college graduates each year. "They have to leave the state to find employment and I feel we need to do more to keep them here," he said.

The secretary said that he has noticed a renewed emphasis on economic development on a bipartisan level in Topeka. It is difficult sometimes to persuade the money spenders that there is a payback in industrial development efforts.

John Peck, president of the Concordia Development Company, told those attending the meeting that for the economic conditions of 1981 Concordia has done well.

He said that during the year employment at Nor'East Industrial Park has increased by 11 to 191 and that the payroll grew by nearly $12,000 to $2,120,000. The four companies located in the industrial area are CE Kansas Manufacturing, Constructive Playthings, S&L Homes and Henry Enterprises, he said.

Peck said that CE has taken on a new product line which is used in the oil and gas industry and probably will be hiring even more people.

He said the industrial company fully endorsed the hiring of a full-time director of industrial and economic development by the city. "The company is ready to muster everything it can to expand industry and to maintain Concordia's economy," he said.

Peck said that Concordia suffered less fluctuation in the economy than many communities and that he expects employment to increase as demand for Concordia products increases.

He said Concordia has excellent plots of land for industrial development and is ready to meet the needs of the future.

Peck also praised retiring director Gordon Sutton for his years of service to the organization. He said that Sutton has decided not to seek re-election because his retirement from Western Power will occur during the next term.

Peck then heard a report from the nominating committee which placed the names of Art Slaughter, A. G. "Jake" Swiercinsky, and Keith Palmquist. Palmquist and Swiercinsky were reelected to the board and Slaughter was elected to his first term of office.

After the development company's meeting, Norman Christian, president of the IDA, called the organization's meeting to order.

Christian said that the board has been busy during the past year and called the members attention to the financial report passed out prior to the meeting.

He told the members that the board is ready to hear any comments from the members and would like to receive their ideas.

He then accepted the names of Dale Scott, Mike Cleveland, Don LacKamp, Burton Gerard, Ray Houser and Cathaleen Uri from the nominating committee to fill vacancies on the board of directors. Gerard, Houser and Uri were reelected to the board and Scott, Cleveland and LacKamp were elected to their first terms in office.

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Dear Editor: 2-12-82

I am writing this to you as an open letter to both the Cloud County Commissioners and City Commissioners in hope that it will stir up other property owners, in fact all tax payers of this county, to organize to do something to get rid of the intangibles tax and put the brakes on the tax and spend policy so prevalent here.

My wife and I have both worked many years and it hasn't been easy to lay by some savings so we could retire in reasonable comfort. According to stories in our local press, the County Commissioners and City Dads were against repeal of the intangibles tax. Our dividends and interest are taxed by the Federal Government, State Government and the 3 percent County tax. Triple taxation.

The City asked for, and got, the ½ percent sales tax and promised not to raise property taxes for one year. Now they can't stand their prosperity.

The downtown mall-type renovation went over like a ton of bricks, so now the City Manager wants an assistant to attract new industry and his salary will come out of the industrial development tax levy plus the City general fund.

Don't you gentlemen know the F.D.R. policy of tax and spend went out of style with the Ronald Reagan landslide election?

Sincerly,
Leslie Ward

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## LETTERS TO

Dear Editor,

Yesterday, as owner of a downtown building, I received a brochure explaining the improvement of the downtown area and requesting a signature to approve the proposal.

The cost is given in detail, but it does say it can change, and change no doubt will be in the next 15 years with inflation at 9 percent yearly.

Do read the proposal, however, don't sign any such document until every figure is totally clear to you. WATCH what you sign knowing full well Concordia has to do improvement, but this improvement may not be in the best interest of every merchant. Most merchants cannot afford such an expense at this time when the nation's in the worst depression and highest unemployment since 1930. Concordia depends mostly on agriculture which for the last year has been an uphill, losing battle.

So please consider this and get all the facts before you sign.

Concerned Taxpayer, Frank Huber

## —City Readies

(Continued from Page One)

Inc. The estimated cost of only the drilling and development is $67,000 and Layne-Western proposes to complete this work for $71,855.

The commission also made plans for completion of the 3rd and Broadway water well with construction of a wellhouse. City Manager Metzger said the apparent low bidder is Goff Construction Co., Concordia with a bid of $10,614.64. The engineer's estimated cost was $11,000. The bid was not immediately approved as Metzger advised the completion date was listed for June by the contractor and the city needed the work completed prior to June. The city manager further stated Goff is out of town this week and suggested delaying approved until it can be determined if the completion date can be set forward.

**Other Business**

In other action Wednesday, the city commission gave final authority for issuance of $40,000 in no fund warrants for the purchase of the new modular ambulance. The new ambulance arrived this week. The issuance of no fund warrants was approved by the state Board of Tax Appeals on Feb. 3. The financing includes five notes of $8,000 each covering the principal, to be retired in five years. Including the 10.75% interest, the total costs to the city for the term of the issue is $52,900. First Bank and Trust of Concordia was awarded the bid to purchase the warrants at 10.75% interest at the Jan. 20 commission meeting.

First Bank and Trust was the low bidder — and the only bidder—at 9.45% interest on public improvement temporary notes. The project includes the street resurfacing in the vicinity of the railroad crossings amounting to nearly $64,000.

A group of FFA officers and members were present for Mayor Lee Doyen to sign a proclamation designating Feb. 20-27 as FFA Week. They were Bob Reedy, Bill Dorman, Brent Lanoue, Casey Fraser and their instructor, Mel Waite.

Dale Busby was also a visitor at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned to a study session set for 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25.

2-18-82

## City Readies For Addition Of Water Well

Concordia will get a second new water well soon, according to action taken at the city commission meeting Wednesday afternoon.

The newest well will be dug in Joler Park in the College Heights addition which is at the extreme southwest corner of town. The first well was established at 3rd and Broadway and is nearing completion with a rated capacity of 350 gallon per minute. The well in Joler Park also is expected to ge about the same capacity, according to test drilling done the past several months by Layne-Western, Inc. of Wichita. A third well is also in the future plans.

City Manager Carl Metzger advised the commission the two wells together will increase the city's water production capability by 1,000,000 gallons per day.

The engineer's total estimated cost of the Joler Park well is $71,855. This includes the cost of drilling and development, wiring, plumbing, and construction of a wellhouse. The commission approved a resolution stating the need for another well and setting the specification and cost estimates.

Also approved was authorization for the city manager and city clerk to negotiate a contract for a gravel wall well at Joler Park with Layne-Western.

(Continued on Page Eight)

2-18-82


# Property Owners

**Do you want your TAXES RAISED?**

**If the proposed downtown public works improvement plan—the (trees, crosswalks, corner islands, benches, etc.) is passed, YOU will pay 21% of the estimated cost of $398,400.00 plus street surfacing cost. If 51% of the merchants or property owners between Lincoln and Cedar Street sign the proposal and passed by commission—it is in and you help pay—without vote. If you want it—OK. If not, you better be telling the listed merchants WHO ARE IN FAVOR—your feelings, Yes or NO.**

Culbertson Elec.
Daylight Clothing
Nicholson Drug
Palmquist Drug

Coast to Coast
First Bank
White's Soft Water
Tom's Music

*This is not sensible at this time with conditions as they are.*

*Everett Morgan*


2-12-82

# City crew blamed for fire Friday

City crews thawing frozen water lines with a welder may have contributed to the cause of a fire Friday afternoon which caused extensive damage to electrical wiring and insulation at the Frank Wheeler home, 912 3rd Ave.

An investigation by city officials and Western Power engineers following the fire concluded that a city crew's use of a welder to thaw water lines in the area may have sent enough voltage from the city's water line to which the home's electrical system had been grounded into the house where its wiring began smoldering. Damage to the home's electrical wiring, insulation and smoke damage to the contents of the house were estimated at several thousand dollars. A final estimate of damage had not been determined, but early detection of the fire while it was still in a smoldering stage kept damage to a minimum.

City Manager Carl Metzger said this was the first time to his knowledge that the city's long-standing practice of thawing frozen water lines with a welding torch had contributed to a fire. He added that the practice was discontinued following the fire, leaving perhaps as many as eight to ten city water customers without water.

Metzger said it was commonplace for electrical and telephone lines in the city to be grounded to the city's water lines although nothing like the incident Friday had been reported in the past.

He said he did not know whether it was that nothing similar had ever occurred before or whether a connection had just never been drawn. At any rate, he said the city's use of the welder in thawing its water lines has been suspended until the matter is investigated further.

Metzger said the city planned to accept liability and pay for damages it may have caused in the Wheeler fire.

The fire at the Wheeler home also drew attention to 'another serious concern of city officials in that the Wheeler house is one of several homes on the west side of 3rd Avenue just outside the city limits. Although the house is connected to city utility lines, it is outside the city limits and is therefore outside the city fire department's jurisdiction. As a result, Friday's fire was responded to by firemen from Cloud County Rural Fire Department District No. 4.

Concordia city fire department equipment stood by at the scene as off-duty firemen helped pull burning insulation from the house, but the city's fire department stood by the city's policy of not sending its equipment outside the city limits on routine fire calls.

The fire, which was reported about 2 p.m. Friday, was brought under control within an hour.

KANSAN 2-18-82

**AMBULANCE ARRIVES**—City firemen Bob Burns, left, and Brad Hopkins check over the new city modular ambulance. Radio equipment was being installed today to prepare the larger, more modern vehicle for service.

—Photo by Wm. DeArmond

# Wheeler Home Extensively Damaged by Fire

Fire caused considerable damage to the Frank Wheeler home at 912 Third Ave., about 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12—and the fire may have been caused by city crews.

Concordia water department workmen were thawing frozen water lines at a home near the Wheeler home using an electric welder and City Manager Carl Metzger reported, a lengthy investigation "determined that use of the welder either started or contributed to the start of the fire."

"Based on that finding damages resulting from the fire will be paid by the city," Metzger advised.

Damage was reported extensive to the home's electrical wiring and insulation and smoke damaged much of the home. Preliminary estimates set the damage at several thousand dollars.

The city has used an electric welder for a number of years to thaw water pipes and no problems were apparent until Friday. Using the welder for this purpose was immediately suspended Friday afternoon. It is believed the current from the welder traveled to the Wheeler home via the water line and because the home's electrical system was grounded to the water line shorts were caused in the wiring.

The owner reported the smell of burning wires and smoke in the attic.

The home sets on the west side of Third Ave. and is outside the city limits. A city pumper fire truck was dispatched and upon its arrival it was determined the site of the fire was just beyond the city limits. Rural Fire District No. 4 was then notified and responded to the fire.

City policy restricts the use of city personnel and equipment for fires outside the city limits for insurance and liability purposes, points out City Manager Metzger. However, off-duty city fire personnel did contain the fire until the rural units arrived. They also assisted in removing smoldering insulation and clean-up after the fire.

### In Case of Freeze-up

David Wheaton, director of utilities for the city, announced this week the use of electrical thawing devices has been discontinued as of Friday. If customers have a frozen water line, the city will continue to provide the service of checking the meters and will help in any other way they can. The staff is currently investigating a new thawing technique which does not require electricity, Wheaton said.

"Also, you may hook up to a neighbor's water line with the neighbor's permission. If this is done, the water billing department should be notified," the utilities director said.

Another way to prevent freeze-ups is to let your water run—about the size of a pencil lead. If this is done, the water department should be notified and bills will be adjusted to normal consumption rate or the minimum, whichever is greater.

Wheaton points out, "Warm days do not necessarily mean the threat of freezing is past because the frost line in the ground is about two feet deep."

Persons having questions or have a particular problem should call the water office. "Your water department is ready to assist in every reasonable way. By working together, we can prevent much of the needless inconvenience and expense from freeze-ups."

### Another Fire Monday

Another home fire was reported Monday, Feb. 16, shortly after noon. The fire department said extensive damage was done to the home of Betty Bumgardner at 603 East 5th. The most damage was to the kitchen and dining area where the fire started, and the rest of the house received smoke and heat damage. The cause of the fire is under investigation, according to fire officials.

# City to increase its water production

2-18-82

The Concordia city commission yesterday took more of the legal steps necessary to increase the city's water production capability by one million gallons per day at its meeting yesterday.

The city by late spring plans to have two new wells in operation. Each well will be capable of producing 350 gallons per minute, according to city manager Carl Metzger.

The new well at 3rd and Broadway is nearing completion and the commissioners approved the bid of Goff Construction Co. for construction of a wellhouse at that site. Goff's low bid on the project was $10,614.64.

The second new well will be in Joler Park and the commissioners approved a resolution declaring the necessity of the well and directing the city manager to submit an application for the well for the approval of the Kansas Corporation Commission. Metzger said that estimated cost of the new well including well development, wiring, plumbing and construction of the wellhouse is $71,855.00.

The commissioners than authorized the city manager to enter into an agreement with Layne-Western, Inc. for the development of the well and well pumping equipment. Layne-Western proposes to do the job for $34,853.00 which is below the engineer's estimate of $35,000.00.

The commissioners also approved the issuance of $40,000 in no fund warrants to finance the purchase of the city's new modular ambulance. Metzger said that the State Board of Tax Appeals on Feb. 3 approved the issuance of the no fund warrants. He further explained that transfers from the city's general fund to a special ambulance equipment fund have been accomplished and that no additional tax levy will be necessary to finance the purchase.

Metzger said that interest on the new ambulance will be 10.75 percent and that the total principal and interst cost on the ambulance will be $52,000.00.

Metzger told the commissioners that he would arrange a meeting with county commissioners to complete negotiations on an intergovernmental agreement for joint occupancy of the law enforcement center.

Metzger also told the commissioners that the city had received one bid on public improvement temporary notes to be issued for street resurfacing projects in Concordia. The only bid came from First Bank & Trust and was at a rate of 9.45 percent, he said.

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

***New ambulance arrives***

**The City of Concordia received its new ambulance yesterday, and Bob O'Connell, O'Connell Electronics, installed radio equipment in the new vehicle today. The emergency vehicle is a modular u purchased with $40,000 in no fund warrants. (Blade-Empire photo Chirs Black)**

2-16-82

# Assistance offered to water users

With the suspension of the use of an electronic welder to thaw city water lines after last Friday's fire at the Frank Wheeler home, the Concordia city water department is currently investigating new thawing techniques which do not require the use of electricity.

The department will continue checking meters and water lines for customers with water line freeze ups and will provide whatever services it can, Director of Utilities David B. Wheaton said Monday.

Wheaton advises city water department customers with frozen meters or lines that they may hook up to a neighbor's water line with the neighbor's permission. He added however, that if this is done, the city water billing department should be notified.

One way to prevent freeze-ups, Wheaton advises, is to let your water run in a steady stream about the size of a pencil lead. If a customer believes he or she can't let the water run continuously because it will run up the water bill, Wheaton advises the water department will adjust the customer's bill to the normal consumption rate or the minimum, whichever is greater, for the period during which freeze-up conditions threaten.

Warm weather does not necessarily mean the threat of freezing does not change as quickly as the daily weather. The city water department will take that into consideration when adjusting the customer's billing. Billing will revert to normal, or actual consumption after the threat of freezing is past.

Customers with questions or particular problems regarding their water service are asked to call the water department. "By working together, we can prevent much of the needless inconvenience and expense from freeze-ups," Wheaton said.

Dear Editor: 2-24-82

I'm sending payment for our advertisement that runs regularly in the Concordia Blade, as I have for several years. But I wonder if some of your City officials have ever seen it.

On the front page of the Blade recently, you ran an article about the City of Concordia drilling a second new well at a cost of just under $35,000.00. This in itself is a very newsworthy, as we all need and use good water. The article never mentioned the other bidders on this project. When in fact there probably weren't any. Aren't elected officials, spending tax-payers money, required by law to advertise and accept bids on a costly project such as this?

Concordia has a licensed tax-paying well driller living within the City limits. Did he get a chance to bid?

I own land in Cloud County, and consider Concordia the place to purchase things not available in Clifton. In fact we spend several thousand dollars a year in the City of Concordia.

My crew and I have collectively 60 years experience in the drilling business. We have some of the best equipment available. We have drilled over 20 City wells for almost every City in this part of the State. We are licensed by the State Department of Health & Environment, and very capable of drilling any well in the area. All the credentials in the world do no good if you don't get a chance to bid. And as of yet I have never had a chance to do any work for the City of Concordia or even been asked.

Some people have asked if we could drill these wells. The answer is YES. Doesn't it make you wonder why a Wichita firm does all the City's work, when a local contractor don't get a chance? Chances are a local contractor would do the work cheaper. And spend a good amount back in the town.

Yours truly,
Daryl Cox

Dear Editor, 2-26-82

It looks like it's going to happen again. The taxpayers of Concordia are going to have taxes increased on a project that most are against.

I'm referring to the so-called beautification of Main street. Why should a few businessmen and local financial institutions dictate what's going to be done without the city at large voting on the issue? The estimated cost to the property owner downtown per lot would be $2,468.00. Figured over the 15 years payoff with interest being added on would be $4,442.75. This plus the cost of yearly upkeep per lot. The cost for the city at large for a 15 year period would be $152,916.00. These are just estimated costs. You know as well as I that estimated costs will end up being much higher than this.

I understand that two years ago the city had the money set aside for repairs of the sidewalks and curbs. What happened to this money? With taxes so high now, why add more for planting trees on the sidewalks, which will most likely die, or else the roots will bust out the new sidewalks and curbs. The cute French style water fountains and benches that are proposed will be vandalized within 30 days.

Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer, you better make a loud protest to the backers of this before it's too late. Do it now.

Yours truly,
Kenneth Cyr

P.S. Let the city crews fix the curbs and sidewalks and forget about the rest of the foolishness.

# Failure in equipment blamed for power failure 2-26-82

A short in the "pothead" where the electrical wires enter a conduit caused a two-hour blackout in Concordia yesterday afternoon affecting nearly one quarter of the city, including the downtown area. Western Power Division officials reported that a short in the equipment when insulation failed at one of the company's sub-divisions feeding power to the northwest area of the city apparently caused the power failure.

The problem was compounded when a control panel in the affected area also burned. Crews worked for two hours locating the problem and then re-routing lines by tying two city circuits together to by-pass the problem area. In addition several transformers in the downtown area shorted out when the control panel burned, and crews had to switch them on individually.

Power to downtown Concordia and about 20 blocks in the surrounding area west and north of downtown was cut off about 3:30 p.m. and remained off for approximately two hours while Western Power Division crews re-routed the lines around the burned out control panels.

The Blade-Empire office lost its electrical power just as the presses were about to roll, delaying Thursday's edition by about two hours. Checkers in local downtown supermarkets used calculators and hand operated adding machines after the power failure shut down cash registers. Some small businesses, left in the dark, closed and workers went home early. While many people were inconvenienced by the loss of electricity, few hardships were reported.

Western Power Division crews were still working today to replace the burned out equipment.

# County and city officials fail to reach agreement on law enforcement center

2-25-82

After several months' discussion aimed at reaching a new interlocal agreement between the City of Concordia and Cloud County officials regarding the operation of the local law enforcement center, city and county officials are back to square one after it had appeared last week that an agreement was imminent.

Instead of approving a new agreement as it has intended this week, the Cloud County Board of Commissioners Monday voted to extend the previous existing interlocal agreement indefinitely while negotiations continue. It was the third time the county has voted to extend the agreement and Commissioner Lowell Thoman voiced his objection to the drawn out negotiations by voting against the resolution to extend the agreement indefinitely.

Negotiations on a new interlocal agreement between the City of Concordia and Cloud County were begun at the beginning of the year after the county board of commissioners notified the City of Concordia that it intended to renegotiate the agreement between the city and county regarding the operation of the combined law enforcement center. The county proposed that the city pay half the cost of utilities instead of the one third it currently pays.

City officials have concluded, however, that the current agreement is fair and equitable in view of the services the city provides to the law enforcement center. Those services include:

—one third the cost of utilities with a maximum not to exceed $3,500 a year;

—dispatcher services which last year totaled $51,250;

—jail checks between 3 and 8 a.m. which last year included 972 jail checks;

—in-service training sessions for officers;

—assistance in investigations and ambulance calls outside the city limits.

For its part, the county provides:

—the building and its upkeep;

—maintains the jail and care of prisoners.

In the past, many of the duties performed by city employees in exchange for the space which city police use in the law enforcement center have not been spelled out in the interlocal agreement. Since the county has attempted to increase the city's utility charge, city officials now want their service contribution included in the agreement. They contend that the city currently provides services to adequately compensate the county for the space which the city occupies in the law enforcement center. City officials also propose calling on the county to create a capital improvement fund for maintaining the law enforcement center and suggest that it be included in a new interlocal agreement.

What started out as an attempt by the county to get the City of Concordia to pay a larger share in operating the law enforcement center has turned into a broad discussion of who does what and what is it worth, with local officials trying to decide how much service equals how much space. It makes what has been a simple agreement in the past into a more complex contract for which the negotiations are likely to be drawn out for several more weeks.

In other business at Monday's county commission meeting:

—the commissioners approved vacation of a portion of 14th Street in the City of Concordia and scheduled a hearing on the proposed vacation of two portions of county roads. Hearing on the proposed county vacation of a portion of a road in Sibley Township, Section 23, Township 5 South, Range 3 an access road to the Republican River, and of a portion of Section 22, Township 5 South, Range 2, around Salt Creek is scheduled for March 8;

—the commission also accepted bids on several pieces of office equipment which the county sold to the highest bidder and approved new advertisements for the sale of several remaining pieces of used equipment.

# Police Report For February

KANSAN 3-4-82

The Concordia police activity report for February indicates a slight overall reduction in crime reported compared to a year ago and a considerable reduction in monetary loss. The report is issued by Police Chief Dennis Rohr who listed three crimes as clearned including one robbery, one theft and one hit and run accident.

There were no burglaries last month but three in February, 1981 for a loss of $2,070. There was one felony theft reported last month ($175 loss) and six misdemeanor cases ($177 loss) compared to eight misdemeanor cases in 1981 for $290 loss.

One robbery was reported last month for $200 loss which was reported recovered. No robbery cases were reported in February, 1981. There were two forgery cases both Februarys with $80 loss this year and $180 loss last year.

The totals are: 15 cases and $1,284 in losses last month; 19 cases and $3,245 in February, 1981.

In other activities, the department investigated 43 traffic accidents; and citations issued and arrests numbered 71. They also assisted on 32 ambulance calls.

# City Increases Water Rates 21%; Sewer 25%

KANSAN 3-4-82

Concordia city commissioners took action Wednesday to increase water rates and sewer user fees. Beginning in April the water rates go up an average of 21% and sewer rates up 25%.

In both instances the reasons given for the increases were increased operating expenses, increased debt service requirements and improving the cash flow to allow for some replacements, extensions and improvements. In the case of the water service one of the items increased included the payment of the well-drilling operations the past year. In the sewer area, the debt on the new sewer plant was cited as increased as the city has been paying only the interest on the bonds until this year.

Mayor Lee Doyen pointed out the city was fortunate when the new sewer plant was built in the fact that the federal government shared in the cost. It was also indicated the sewer rate increase could have been 58% this year but the commission desired a step rate increase thus assuring further increases in years to follow.

The average increase to the average water user in town will be $1.34 per month, said City Manager Carl Metzger. The minimum usage of 200 cubic feet a month will increase from $3.50 to $4.00. Customers using 600 c.f. of water monthly have been paying $5.78 and their new charge beginning in April will be $6.84. Monthly usage of 1,000 c.f. will go from $8.06 to $9.68; 5,000 c.f. from $28.06 to $34.72; 10,000 c.f. from $51.56 to $64.22.

Sewer charges are based on water usage during February and March. The minimum now is $3.25 and it will increase to $3.90, 600 l.f. now at $5.30 goes up to 6.43; 1,000 l.f., from $6.93 to $8.39; 5,000 l.f. now $18.03 up to $21.67; 10,000 l.f., from 50.55 to $62.56. The city water department has a table of both water and sewer rates—old compared to new—for anyone needing additional information.

**Visitors Speak Out**

Visitors at the meeting included Jack Gould, Lowell Thoman, Robert Davis, Charles Jewell, Dale Busby, Ross Hatfield, Charles Everitt, Joe Bertrand, Ken Johnson, Gene Haynes, Rex Whitney, Jon Martin, Ken Holechek, George Mikesell, Phillip Detrixhe, Cecil Runyan, John Trude, Vern Bowyer, Dave Wheaton and Dennis Rohr.

Several of them, including Gould, Trude, Detrixhe, Everitt, and others were questioning the proposed downtown improvement project. One question asked by Gould was "Why no vote?"

The commission explained they were making plans two years ago for curb, gutter and street repairs and at that time a group of downtown businesses asked the city to delay plans while they studied the situation and attempted to form a benefit district for additional improvements. Commissioner Greg Hattan explained that is where the project is now—a benefit district is being formed to add beautification items as well as new sidewalks. All these items will be paid for by the benefit district providing the property owners have a majority who want and sign petitions calling for the improvements. Hattan said the city still plans only curb and gutter replacement and some street resurfacing. Although not yet official, the plan is to do the curb work this summer, along with the other improvements, which is expected to run into fall. The street resurfacing work is not expected until 1983 as the last item after all the other work is completed. The sidewalk replacement, trees, benches, and other beautfication work still hinges on whether or not the benefit district can present sufficient petitions.

Thoman questioned the price the city is paying to have water wells dug indicating it was excessive. The city manager explained the city felt it was getting its money's worth considering experience of the driller, quality of work, stringent city requirements, the guarantee, and other points.

Other questions about routine city business were also asked.

March 15 was set as the date to accept bids on the old city ambulance. Metzger said this bidding will be open only to ambulance service operators in the county. If no bids are received or the bids rejected, the bidding would then be opened up to the general public or any other out-of-county business.

Barton Plumbing of Belleville was approved for a sewer plumber and gas inspector's license.

The commission plans a meeting Monday with county commissioners and a study session at noon next Thursday.

# Sewer, water rates to rise

3-4-82

Concordia city commissioners voted yesterday to raise city water rates by 21 percent and city sewer rates by 25 percent in a move to, according to the commissioners, meet rising operation costs and the annual debt service coverage required by bond ordinances.

The city of Concordia water utility operates on a cash, or budget, system as determined by local conditions and policies. On this system, revenues should provide adequate water service and maintain and develop the water system.

The utilities are financed largely by serial bonds whose retirement must be provided for annually while the bonds are outstanding, according to city officials. The utility is not operated for profit, but attempts to cover total operating costs and to provide for investment in plant facilities.

The city of Concordia contracted with Wilson & Co. of Salina in July 1980 to complete a review of existing water rates, to project future operation requirements and to recommend a new water rate structure to insure a continued self-sustaining operation.

Based on the information in the water rate study, the city commission in December 1980 implemented the adoption of the proposed water rate schedules for 1981-1984 to provide automatic annual rate adjustment, adoption of "stepped rates" for customers inside and outside the city limits, continuation of financing minor capital improvements through revenues produced from water rates, adoption of the capital improvements plan as developed by the city for improving and expanding the water system and review of the water system annually to determine if the water rate schedule is providing adequate revenues.

According to city reports, the water utility had net losses in 1979 and 1980 and did not produce the annual debt service coverage required by Bond Ordinance No. 2130. The deficiency was paid in 1981 by the additional revenue generated by the 1980 water rate increases.

The projected 1982 annual revenue requirements are: $291,794 for operation and maintenance, $55,610 for debt service and $40,300 for annual requirement for replacements, extensions and improvements, totaling $387,704.

City commissioner Lee Doyen said that the city now faced improvements that had been put off in the past.

According to the commission, operating and maintenance costs are increasing as predicted, and completion of the 14th Street transmission and convent fire protection line and development of the two new supply wells will result in increased annual debt service requirements. Annual debt service coverage has been restored to the mandated levels and the deficits experienced in 1979 and 1980 have been replaced by cash basis financing.

In order to meet the Environmental Protection Agency requirements, the city must provide secondary sewer treatment and must adopt a system of sewer user charges.

The rate system must assure that each recipient of waste water treatment services pays his proportionate share of the cost of operation and maintenance, including replacement. The intent of the user charges requirement is to distribute the cost of operation and maintenance of the publicly owned treatment works to the user and to promote self-sufficiency of the treatment works for operation and maintenance cost.

The rate plan adopted by the city of Concordia provided that the minimum charge be sufficient to recover debt service cost and that, beyond the minimum, the users pay in proportion to their actual water consumption. The burden of raising additional revenues is spread as evenly as possible over all users, according to the rate plan.

In 1978 Wilson & Co. sewer user charge study analyzed operation and maintenance revenue requirements and capital cost recovery requirements of the Concordia Wastewater Treatment Facility and collection system.

Projected 1982 revenue requirements are: $264,669 for operating and maintenance and $51,200 for debt service, totaling $315,869. The 1982 rate schedule will increase rates 25 percent over the existing rate schedule.

A minimum monthly charge of $3.90 for the first 200 cubic feet of average monthly winter water use, plus an additional monthly charge of 70 cents for each 100 cubic feet over 200 feet, will be charged for all residential, commercial and industrial users of the municipal wastewater collection and treatment system within the city limits.

For users of the municipal wastewater collection and treatment system outside city limits, the new rates will be a minimum monthly charge of $5.85 for the first 200 cubic feet of average monthly winter water use plus an additional monthly charge of $1.05 for each 100 cubic feet over 200 cubic feet.

On the sewer rates, as on the water rates, the city must maintain revenue to meet bond requirements.

The sewer service charge for each customer served by the city will be fixed on the first day of April each year.

Commissioner Greg Hattan said that 14 percent of the rate increase would go for operating expenses and 11 percent for the bond requirement.

Hattan also explained that if the proposed beautification project for downtown Concordia is carried out, the city's only expense will be the cost of repairing the curbs and guttering. Hattan said the city would have replaced the curbs and guttering whether or not businesses decided to continue with the project.

He said the issue would not be up for a city vote because only businesses on Sixth Street would pay for the project. According to Hattan, if 51 percent of the business on Sixth Street sign a petition for the proposed project.

Hattan said the cost would be assessed on a front-footage basis for the businesses on Sixth Street only.

After Hattan explained the city's position on the project, several visitors expressed complaints on other issues.

The commission also approved a sewer plumber bond for Barton Plumbing. Gene Barton posted the necessary bonds, which were inspected by city attorney David Retter.

1982 WATER USER CHARGES

| Water Use Category (c.f.) | Former Monthly Charge | New Minimum Monthly Charge | Additional Monthly Consumption Charge | Total Bill Under New System |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 100 | 3.50 | 4.00 | -0- | 4.00 |
| 200 | 3.50 | 4.00 | -0- | 4.00 |
| 300 | 4.07 | 4.00 | .71 | 4.71 |
| 400 | 4.64 | 4.00 | 1.42 | 5.42 |
| 500 | 5.21 | 4.00 | 2.13 | 6.13 |
| 600 | 5.78 | 4.00 | 2.84 | 6.84 |
| 700 | 6.35 | 4.00 | 3.55 | 7.55 |
| 800 | 6.92 | 4.00 | 4.26 | 8.26 |
| 900 | 7.49 | 4.00 | 4.97 | 8.97 |
| 1,000 | 8.06 | 4.00 | 5.68 | 9.68 |
| 2,000 | 13.76 | 4.00 | 12.78 | 16.78 |
| 5,000 | 28.06 | 4.00 | 30.72 | 34.72 |
| 8,000 | 42.16 | 4.00 | 48.42 | 52.42 |
| 10,000 | 51.56 | 4.00 | 60.22 | 64.22 |
| 20,000 | 93.66 | 4.00 | 112.36 | 116.36 |

The average residential water consumption in Concordia during January and February 1982. Based on this average, the new rates will result in an additional 1.34 charge per month.

1982 SEWER USER CHARGES

| Water Use Category (c.f.) | Former Average Monthly Charge | New Minimum Monthly Charge | Additional Monthly Consumption Charge | Avg. Total Bill Under New System |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 - 100 | 3.25 | 3.90 | -0- | 3.90 |
| 101 - 200 | 3.25 | 3.90 | -0- | 3.90 |
| 201 - 300 | 3.56 | 3.90 | .36 | 4.26 |
| 301 - 400 | 4.15 | 3.90 | 1.06 | 4.96 |
| 401 - 500 | 4.72 | 3.90 | 1.74 | 5.64 |
| 501 - 600 | 5.30 | 3.90 | 2.53 | 6.43 |
| 601 - 700 | 5.88 | 3.90 | 3.23 | 7.13 |
| 701 - 1,000 | 6.93 | 3.90 | 4.49 | 8.39 |
| 1,001 - 2,000 | 9.86 | 3.90 | 8.20 | 12.10 |
| 2,001 - 5,000 | 18.03 | 3.90 | 17.77 | 21.67 |
| 5,001 - 7,500 | 34.76 | 3.90 | 42.97 | 46.87 |
| 7,501 - 10,000 | 50.55 | 3.90 | 58.66 | 62.56 |
| 10,001 - Up | 176.85 | 3.90 | 163.48 | 167.38 |

The figures in the table are based on averages. The actual cost to the consumer will depend on the specific amount of water used.

3-11-82 Kipsun

# City and County Agree On Law Center Terms

The Board of Cloud County Commissioners and Concordia City Commissioners have reached tentative agreement on the use of the county-owned Law Enforcement Center. Meeting with county commissioners Monday were Concordia City Manager Carl Metzger, City Commissioners Lee Doyen and Wilbur Naylor, and Police Chief Dennis Rohr, as well as Sheriff Fred Modlin and County Attorney C. L. Laman.

County Clerk Betty DeWitt advises the discussion brought out the fact that the previous agreement, which was to end on Dec. 31, called for the city to pay a share of custodial costs. However, the city had never been billed for these costs. The new agreement which the city planned to approve at an adjourned session today, calls for the city to continue paying one-third of the utility costs and custodial costs. However, the ceiling of these costs will be raised to $4,000 from $3,000. The city also furnishes the dispatchers except for the sheriff's secretary, while the county furnishes the building and all jail facilities.

If the utility and custodial expenses exceed $4,000 annually the agreement can be modified without the necessity of terminating the entire agreement. The remainder of the contract stays much the same except that it spells out in more detail the responsibilities of each of the departments occupying the Law Enforcement Center.

County commissioners plan to sign the new agreement at their March 15 meeting.

# County, city officials near agreement

3-8-82

Concordia city officials met this morning with the Cloud County Board of Commissioners to iron out their differences on a proposed interlocal agreement governing the operation of the city-county law enforcement center. After nearly a half-hour discussion, it appeared the two bodies had cleared the way for approval of a new agreement within the next week.

The meeting was attended by all three county commissioners, City Commissioners Lee Doyen and Wilbur Naylor, City Manager Carl Metzger, Chief of Police Dennis Rohr and Sheriff Fred Modlin, County Attorney C.L. Laman, and County Clerk Betty DeWitt. City Commissioner Greg Hattan and City Attorney David Retter were not present the mid-morning meeting.

Metzger opened the meeting with a statement that the proposed agreement which the county commission had approved Feb. 22 was acceptable to the city officials with one exception. He said the city proposed that it continue to pay a third of the utilities and custodial bills rather than the one-half which had been included in the county's proposal. Under the previous agreement, the city paid one-third of the utility bills up to a $3,500 maximum, and although the agreement had called for the city to pay one-third of the custodial costs as well, the city had not been charged for custodial services.

Laman questioned the need for including a $3,500 ceiling as part of the agreement when the city was agreeing to pay a percentage of the total utilities cost, and County Commissioner Thoman questioned what would happen if the city's percentage of the utilities bills exceeded the ceiling.

Metzger pointed out that the city's utilities costs had never come close to the ceiling, but that city officials believed it was a necessary figure for their budget purposes. He said the city would be open to negotiating payment beyond the ceiling, but he added that city officials felt it was necessary to have the amount written into the agreement so that it would automatically trigger negotiations if utility costs increased to the point that the city's maximum was reached. Laman said he thought the wording in the agreement could be written so that it was understood that the ceiling figure was not an absolute maximum for which the city was responsible, but was rather a figure at which the two parties would have to negotiate future payments.

However, several members of the group questioned whether the $3,500 figure was high enough in view of rising utility costs. Although the city's share of the law enforcement utilities costs were only about $2,000 last year, it was pointed out that with an additional approximately $1,200 to be paid for custodial services, the city's share of the cost would soon be at $3,500 a year. Metzger agreed and suggested raising the figure to $4,000.

With that, Laman reviewed the points of agreement between the two commissions to be included in the interlocal agreement which he will draw up and submit to the Concordia city commission for its approval later this week. After the agreement is approved by the city commission, it will be returned to the county commission for its approval and then will be submitted to the Kansas attorney general's office for final approval.

After nearly three months of negotiation, the two bodies have come up with an agreement similar to the previous year's agreement. The new agreement however: spells out in greater detail that the sheriff has authority over the jail kitchen; that future agreements can be amended without termination of the contract; that there be a 90 day notification of termination of the agreement, and that the city pay one-third of the utility and custodial costs up to a ceiling of $4,000 after which further payment will be subject to negotiation.

Modlin pointed out at the conclusion of the meeting that the lengthy negotiation period over the new law enforcement agreement did not mean that there had been friction between the two departments which occupy the center. He said there has always been good cooperation between the sheriff's and police departments and there will continue to be a good working relationship.

He said that the negotiations were just a necessary part in coming up with a new written agreement between the city and county governing the overall operation of the law enforcement center.

With the details of the interlocal agreement aside, Laman went on to point out the need for the two bodies to work on a long-range plan for the law enforcement center. He pointed out the current facility was "like the B-1 bomber, obsolete before it was completed," and that space in the five-year old facility was already becoming a problem.

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

# Crime decrease reported

3-2-82

The number of crimes reported in Concordia was down again last month, according to a report compiled by Concordia Chief of Police Dennis Rohr.

The number of overall criminal cases reported to police was put at 15, down slightly from the 19 cases reported to police in February 1981. However, the crime rate was up slightly from the 13 new criminal cases added to police books in January 1982 which was a substantial drop from the 31 cases reported for January a year before.

The number of misdemeanor theft cases dropped from 8 in February 1981 to 6 reported last month. However, there was one felony theft reported last month while none had been reported in February 1981. The number of misdemeanor vandalism cases reported to police remained at 3 while the number of felony vandalism cases dropped from 3 in February 1981 to 2 reported last month. Two forgeries were reported to police during each February.

The one robbery reported to police last month was cleared and the $200 which had been stolen was recovered, Rohr reported.

Police also cleared a theft and a hit-and-run accident from their books, investigated 43 traffic accidents, issued citations or made arrests for 71 violations, and answered 32 ambulance calls during February 1982, Rohr said.

# Door to door salesman required to get license

3-10-82

Concordia police Monday asked two magazine salesmen to either purchase a sales license or leave the city, after which the two men reportedly packed up and left.

Concordia Police Chief Dennis Rohr reported that the two men were stopped and questioned by police after a resident in the East Hill Mobile Home Park called police to report the two men who had been selling magazines door to door without a license. Rohr said the two men, apparently from Alabama, were not suspected of any wrong doing other than selling without a city license.

He went on to add however, that persons who go door to door selling magazines of any other product are required to purchase a city license. Persons who do not do so are in violation of the law. He added that with the advent of spring the number of persons making door-to-door solicitations increases, and that residents should report to police persons they suspect of making door-to-door solicitations without a license.

# Deaths

## Cassius "Red" Parker

Cassius "Red" Parker died this morning, March 2, at the Republic County Hospital in Belleville. He was 60.

He was born in Glasco on July 5, 1921, the son of William and Clara Chesley Parker.

He married Ann M. Marlax on Oct. 7, 1951 in Jamestown.

Mr. Parker was a veteran of World War II. He was a lifetime resident of Cloud County and had been employed by the city of Concordia for about 10 years at the time of his death. He also did custom combining.

He was a member of the Catholic Church, the commander of the American Legion Post 76, a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars 588 and a member of the Moose Lodge, all of Concordia.

He is survived by his wife, Ann, of Concordia; a daughter, Joreen Wilcox and her husband, Steve, Concordia; three stepsons, Damon Christensen and his wife, Betty, Concordia; Loren Christensen and his wife, Linda, San Dimas, Calif.; and Jerry Reuther, Tacoma, Wash.; a brother, Hawf Parker, Dinuba, Calif.; a sister, Lillie Sullivan, Wichita; and 14 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, and two brothers.

Funeral services for Mr. Parker will be 10 a.m. Thursday, March 4, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church with the Rev. Maurice Ptacek officiating. Burial will be in Pleasant Hill Cemetery. There will also be military graveside services by the American Legion and the VFW.

Friends may call at Chaput-Buoy Funeral Home after 9 a.m. Wednesday.

# Customer complaints may have affected Postal Service decision

3-23-82

It sometimes pays to fight City Hall, or the Post Office at any rate. Although Sunday box service was discontinued at the Concordia Post Office two weeks ago, Sunday service continues as usual at the Post Office in Belleville.

The difference appears to be that patrons of the Belleville Post Office deluged the U. S. Postal Service District Office in Salina with complaints when it was announced there that the Sunday mail would no longer be placed in post office boxes. The district office received nearly 100 letters complaining of the proposed cutback before it was decided to continue putting mail in the boxes on Sunday in Belleville. Concordia patrons, however took news of the discontinuation of Sunday service without much complaint, and the district office moved ahead with orders to cut back the Sunday service here.

Concordia Postmaster Leonard Hruza said he was not sure why the district office had decided to discontinue box service at one location and not at the other, but he said he would not rule out the possibility that complaints to the district office had kept Sunday service at Belleville. He said he did not receive many complaints when the notice of Sunday closing was first posted here.

Hruza pointed out that postal employees still work the mail for two hours on Sunday morning here, although it is not put in the boxes; and mail is still sent out on Sunday evenings and holidays. The only difference has been the discontinuation of Sunday service to post office box holders.

Of the latest notice posted in the Concordia Post Office, Hruza said the notice that customers should not expect their mail to be in their boxes before 8:30 a. m., was not a change in policy. He said it was a clarification of what time customers could expect to receive their mail. He said every effort would still be made to get mail to the boxes by 8 a. m., but that customers should not expect to have box service complete until 8:30 a. m.

3-24-82

# County gives final approval to agreement

The Cloud County Board of Commissioners voted Monday to approve a resolution adopting an interlocal agreement with the City of Concordia regarding the operation of the city-county law enforcement center.

The new agreement, the result of three months of negotiations between city and county officials, is basically a renewal of the previous agreement with new provisions to amend the agreement without terminating it. He also provides for 90 days notification of termination, and spells out that the sheriff has ultimate control of the jail kitchen. The city approved a resolution adopting the agreement at a meeting March 11. The interlocal agreement is now subject to the approval of the Kansas attorney general's office.

City and county officials at one point neared an impasse over the adoption of a new agreement, when it was suggested that the city's share of utility and maintenance costs should be raised from one third to one half. City officials objected to the raise in utility charges saying that the city already paid its fair share of the operating costs of the law enforcement center by providing other in-kind services, including dispatcher service and through-the-night jail checks.

Under provisions in the new agreement, the City of Concordia will pay one-third of the utility and maintenance costs incurred in the operation of the law enforcement center, up to a $4,000 limit. If ever the $4,000 limit is exceeded, it will automatically trigger renegotiation of the utilities portion of the contract.

Nov 18, 82

# City studies water distribution system

Based on the findings of a water system storage study the city is currently involved in an analysis of the city's water distribution system, City Manager Carl Metzger yesterday told Concordia city commissioners.

Metzger said that in addition the city is gathering information on available radio control systems and the installation of an altitude valve at the west water tower. He explained that these two items were priority recommendations of Wilson & Co. of Salina after the completion of the water storage system study.

Metzger said that the review done by Wilson & Co., indicated that a population of 8,500 people by the year 2000 will result in water consumption demands of about 1,071,000 gallons and 3,060,000 gallons per day respectively for average and peak dry weather consumption.

He said the review of the facilities indicates that additional storage is not necessary at this time; however, two methods of providing future storage were reviewed. The two systems were a 500,000-gallon elevated tank as opposed to a one-million gallon underground storage tank. Wilson & Co., according to Metzger, was recommending the one-million gallon underground storage tank.

Metzger said that a detailed analysis of the distribution system was not within the scope of the study, but was recommended by Wilson & Co. He said that after completion of the study specific improvement projects could be outlined, priorities established, and funding allocated. "It should be noted that during preparation of this report several deficiencies in the system were observed," he said. "Most obvious deficiencies were in the south industrial area," he said.

Metzger said that after completion of the two new wells now being developed by the city, the order of priorities should be: 1. distribution system improvements with respect to fire flow demand and existing storage replenishment; 2. provide new water supply wells to match the city's water allocation rate; and 3. review future needs of storage facilities.

Metzger said that Wilson & Co. recommended that the present control system for the existing water supply be replaced within an FM radio system. He said that a total radio control system would link all water wells, the two existing storage tanks, and the high service pump station.

In other business the commission approved a resolution authorizing the issuance of the temporaty notes for the repair and resurfacing of portions of Broadway, Washington, State, Cedar, Third and Second Streets at the railroad crossings. The amount authorized for temporary notes was not to exceed $63,693.00.

The commissioners also authorized the city manager to enter a contractual agreement with American Express to establish an account for the city. Metzger said the credit card would be issued to him and would be used for confirmation of reservations, travel expenses, and unanticipated or emergency expenditures incurred while traveling on behalf of the city.

# V.F.W. Recognizes Persons for Public Safety

Martin-LeSage VFW Post No. 588 and the Ladies Auxiliary held a Public Safety Recognition and Drug Abuse program on Thursday evening March 11. Commander Jack Krager opened the meeting by introducing Ladies Auxiliary President Verona Perret, Auxiliary Safety and Drug Abuse chairman Jo Krager and co-chairman Jolene Swihart and Post Safety chairman Gerald Collins.

The program was outlined by Mrs. Perret. Collins, Mrs. Krager and Mrs. Swihart presented certificates of appreciation to the following groups: Concordia Police Department, Cloud County Sheriff's Department, Kansas Highway Patrol, Concordia Fire Department and the fire department para medics.

The Post and Auxiliary also honored Kenny Cyr of Concordia and Royce and Brenda Bruntzel of Jamestown. These three citizens assisted in the arrest of a purse snatching suspect on the afternoon of Feb. 3, 1982. The VFW and Auxiliary also presented Sheriff Fred Modlin a check for $150 to be used in the sheriff's department drug abuse program.

Krager closed the program by thanking the special guests, Ladies Auxiliary and Post members for attending the program. Following the program lunch was served.

3-25-82 KANSAN

RECEIVE PUBLIC RECOGNITION—Pictured front row, left to right: Kansas Highway Patrolman Erick Kindlesparger, fire department para-medic Don Barnhart, Fire Chief Jack Fisher, Police Chief Dennis Rohr, Sheriff Fred Modlin, and Kansas Highway Patrolman Dave Aggson. Back row, from left: VFW Post 588 Commander Jack Krager, Post Safety Chairman Gerald Collins, Kenny Cyr, Auxiliary Safety and Drug Abuse Chairman Jo Krager, Auxiliary President Verona Perret, Safety and Drug Abuse Co-chairman Jolene Swihart, Brenda Bruntzel, and Royce Bruntzel. Also honored but not pictured was Kansas Highway Patrolman Joe Vajgrt.
—Photo by William DeArmond

4-1-82

## Vandalism, theft reported

Another back window was broken out of a parked car in Concordia Wednesday. Police reported that Carol Fahring, 314 W. 7th, told police that sometime between 9:30 p.m. Tuesday and 8:30 a.m. Wednesday the back window was broken out of her 1972 Dodge while it was parked at her residence. Damage was estimated at $75.

Eddie Boyer, 712 E. 5th, reported to police that sometime between March 14 and March 29, gasoline had been stolen from the tank of his 1963 Chevrolet pickup and that a spare tire and wheel had been taken from the bed of the pickup. Loss was estimated at $50.

## Accident reported

An accident at the intersection of 11th and Lincoln streets Tuesday afternoon resulted in extensive damage to the two vehicles involved, but no injuries to the occupants. Police report that about 3 p.m. Tuesday a Vega driven by Sherry L. Kisby, 20, Clifton was struck from behind by a car driven by Joseph Havel, 85, Cuba. Kisby had reportedly stopped for a red light as she was traveling south on Lincoln when her car was struck from the rear by the Havel vehicle.

# Concordia crime decreased in March

4-2-82

Despite a rash of broken car windows in the past week and a half, Concordia police have had one of their least busy months in recent memory, Concordia Chief of Police Dennis Rohr announced Thursday in releasing his monthly report on crime.

Crime in Concordia approached a near record low for recent years during March 1982 as a three-year downward trend in the local crime statistics continued with a big plunge downward in the monthly statistics. There were only 12 crimes reported to Concordia police during the 31 days of March 1982, Rohr announced. That is nearly a 60 percent drop from the 31 crimes reported during March a year ago.

The biggest decreases were reported in the number of thefts, with felony thefts having dropped from 5 to 1, and misdemeanor thefts having dropped from 10 in March 1981 to 4 during March 1982. Incidents of vandalism accounted for the remainder of the crimes, with 3 cases of misdemeanor vandalism cases and 4 felony vandalism cases reported last month. There were 7 misdemeanor and 9 felony cases of vandalism reported during March 1981. Losses due to crime were also down, from $4,370 in March 1981 to $1,798 during March 1982.

The drop in crime which has been part of a continuous trend since 1978 prompted Rohr to question how long it could be expected to continue. Rohr said he did not know to what to attribute the decrease in crime, but he pointed out that a downward trend was obvious and crime is at its lowest since 1975.

March's 12 new criminal cases topped a record set in January 1982 when 13 crimes were reported to police. The 13 new cases recorded in January were down from 31 crimes reported in January 1981. Police investigated 15 new cases in February 1982, slightly from the 19 new cases reported in February 1981.

With the lower incidents of crime, police also experienced a lower clearance rate last month, with only two cases cleared. The clearance rate for the year however, remains high, boosted by a 19 case clearance rate in January when police solved more cases than the number of new cases reported during the month. Many of those cases involved crimes committed in 1981.

If this first-quarter trend continues, Rohr pointed out, the city will have by far the lowest crime rate it has had in recent years.

KANSAN 4-8-82

# City Commissioners Update Internal Policy

Concordia city commissioners met for a business session Wednesday afternoon. Covered were updating internal policies, purchase of a truck, appointments to two city boards and other routine business.

The city purchased a one-ton Chevrolet truck cab and chassis from Babe Houser Motors for $8,350. Houser submitted the low bid which was under the $9,367 bid by Kling Motor Co. of Concordia on a 1982 Ford F-350. The bids included a trade-in of a 1978 Buick Skylark car formerly used by the police department but more recently used by various city departments.

Concordians appointed to the Airport Advisory Board were Bob Pfuetze and Leo Dreiling, both pilots. Their terms run to July 1, 1985. They replace Robert Ruzicka and Earl Learned on the advisory group.

Appointed to four-year terms on the Concordia Library Board were Dean R. Frazier and Donna Berner. They replace Margo Hesie and Rev. David W. Seward who have served their maximum of two terms.

### Policies Updated

The commission approved three ordinances which in effect put into writing previously verbal policies concerning internal city operations.

The first dealt with the "Uniform Personnel Rules and Regulations for the City of Concordia." The rules were amended in the area of city personnel accepting outside employment. An unwritten policy for department heads was established in 1979. The new policy covers all city employees in writing. Basically, explained City Manager Cari Metzger, the types of outside jobs the city employees can have are recommended and all city hourly wage personnel must receive approval from their department heads before taking outside or parttime jobs, and department heads must have their outside jobs reviewed and approved by the city manager.

The second ordinance, also pertaining to employees, concerned training activities. Metzger said the purpose of the change in the rules is establishment of standard procedures for requesting attendance at schools, seminars, conferences, conventions or other authorized training activities and reimbursement for the training. The policy was expanded to include specialized training such as Emergency Medical Technicians, police and firefighter training, and water - sewer certification training. The policy was expanded to include evaluating the effectiveness of the various kinds of training, explained the city manager.

The final ordinance authorized the execution of an interlocal agreement between the city and Cloud County. The agreement, developed by City Attorney David Retter and County Attorney C. L. Laman, establishes an agreement for cooperation with respect to snow removal, drainage upkeep, street maintenance and repair, and purchase of asphalt from the county's hot-mix plant. The city and county have been cooperating on most of the items several years but the agreement puts the cooperation into writing. The agreement must now go before the Board of Cloud County Commissioners and then through the Kansas attorney general's office before it is final.

The commission will hold a study session April 15 at 12:15 p.m. The new commissioner elected in Tuesday's city election, Ernest Girard, was a visitor at Wednesday's meeting. He will take office at the April 21 meeting.

### Discuss Downtown Area

The city commission met again Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. for a public meeting concerning the downtown improvement project that has been in the planning stages for a number of months. Only about 40 downtown store operators and property owners were in attendance.

The most recent project taken before a proposed downtown benefit district—four blocks from Lincoln to Cedar, only properfacing 6th street—did not receive a sufficient number of signatures. It was indicated the signatures represented just under 50% of the property owners in the benefit district.

Total cost of that work was just under $400,000 with the city paying about 21% and the benefit district 79%. The city's part of the project would include new curbs and guttering. The work proposed by the benefit district included new sidewalks, trees spaced along both sides for the four-block area, some park benches, drinking water fountains, business directories, mid-block crosswalks, and decorative treatment at the corners.

A new pared-down plan was proposed at the Wednesday evening meeting. The new project includes only the two middle blocks of the original project or from Broadway to State. The projected total cost was set at $213,985. The city would still plan to replace curb and guttering at a cost of about $56,500. The cost to the benefit district would be $162,421 in the two-block area (compared to $313,-500 in the four-block area). The new proposal would eliminate all benches, water fountains and business directories. The number of trees would be drastically reduced to two at each corner and two in the middle of the block at the mid-block crosswalks which would stay in the

(Continued on Page Eight)

project. Also staying in the project would be the corner beautification improvements.

Proponents of the project are confident they can sell the new plan as approximately 60% of the property owners in these two blocks signed the last petition. A new petition must now be circulated since the project has new improvement work listed and new cost figures.

City Manager Metzger reports the city commission has expressed a desire for the block on 6th from Lincoln to Broadway to have both new curb and guttering and new sidewalks which are a responsibility of the property owners. The city indicates that if property owners cannot set up benefit district the city will contract the work done and charge the cost back to the property owners. Estimated cost of the improvements in this one block is $66,716; or $48,876 assessed to the properties and $17,839 to be paid by the city-at-large.

Proponents have been given until May 5 to present sufficient petitions calling for the beautication work— the improvements other than curb and gutter work. The city plans the curb repairs this summer and fall and then resurfacing of 6th street in a separate project next year.

KANSAN 4-8-82

# Ernest Girard Wins City Commissioner Election

Ernest Girard was a landslide victor in Tuesday's Concordia city commission election. Girard tallied 746 votes to 161 for Dale Busby. The winner received better than 82% of the 907 votes cast.

Girard will be replacing Wilbur Naylor on the commission April 21. Naylor did not seek re-election.

Girard is a 35-year employee of Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. and has served on the local school board.

**Less than 25% of the 3,-757 registered voters in Concordia voted Tuesday.**

Only one voting place was used so votes were not tallied by precinct. Following are the total number of votes in each of the five precincts:

1st Ward—134
2nd Ward, 1st Pct.—178
2nd Ward, 2nd Pct.—130
3rd Ward—273
4th Ward—140
Absentee— 4

Ernest Girard

# Young boys suspected of breaking 30 windows

4-15-82

Four boys ranging in age from seven to 13 have been implicated in the breaking of 30 windows in Miltonvale earlier this week.

The Cloud County sheriff's department reports that its investigation has determined that the boys, a seven-year-old, an eight-year-old, an 11-year-old and a 13-year-old were responsible for breaking 22 windows in the Miltonvale High School gymnasium, a window in the main part of the high school building, four bus windows and three windows in Abbott Hall. The incident apparently occurred sometime between Saturday and Monday and were reported to the sheriff's department on Tuesday.

It appears that the boys broke the windows by throwing rocks through them. Damage from the broken windows was estimated at $1,525. Charges are not expected to be filed because of the ages of the boys; however, their parents may be held responsible for restitution.

In a separate incident also under investigation, representatives of the Wesley Foundation at Miltonvale reproted nearly $1,400 damage to its campgrounds at Miltonvale since early December. Vandalism to the campground buildings and facilities is apparently unrelated to the recent window breaking incident or the juveniles involved, the sheriff's department reported.

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## —City Updates

(Continued from Page One)

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4-7-82

# Girard wins commission race

Ernest A. Girard was elected to the Concordia city commission Tuesday in an overwhelming show of support from the fewer than 1,000 voters who went to the polls. Girard received 746 of the 907 votes cast, while his opponent Dale W. Busby received 161 votes.

Because there was only one polling place in Tuesday's election, a breakdown of the candidates' votes by precinct and ward is not available, but figures show the light turnout was reflected throughout the city. In the city's First Ward, 134 voters cast ballots, while 178 voters cast ballots from the First Precinct of the Second Ward and 180 voted in the Second Precinct of the Second Ward. The highest voter turnout was reported in the Third Ward where 273 voters cast their ballots, while in the Fourth Ward 140 votes were cast. Four absentee ballots were also cast in the election.

The results of Tuesday's election will be canvassed by the Cloud County Board of Commissioners Friday morning, after which the election results become official. If, as it appears, the election results are held valid, Girard will assume office on April 21.

Only about half as many city voters voted in this year's election as did in last year's city commission race, but the relatively low turnout is not unusual for a single ballot city commission election, election officials explained. Last April local voters cast their ballots on a question to raise the local senior citizens' mill levy one-half mill, and elected members to three school board positions and three community college trustee positions, in addition to voting in the city commission election. Last year 1,680 votes were cast in the city election for commissioner as Dr. Greg Hattan defeated Lawrence Adams 911 to 769.

Tuesday's election succeeded in getting out only 907 of the city's 3,757 registered voters.

In making a conciliatory statement after the election, Busby commented on the low voter turnout. After thanking his supporters and wishing Girard the best of luck, Busby added: "I don't mean to sound bitter and I don't want to detract from Mr. Girard's victory. However, I think it is a sad commentary on the attitudes of local citizens when less than one-third of the registered voters turn out for an election which affects everyone. The city commission determines your water rates, salaries for all city employees, and funding for city equipment, just to name a few. They are not a rubber-stamp organization and I believe everyone should take an active interest.

"I spoke with Mr. Girard after the results were out to congratulate him and wish him the best of luck. He told me he will do the best job he can, and you can't ask more than that from anyone."

Girard, the winner, was unavailable for comment today.

**Gerard, 54, is an employee of Southwestern Bell Telephone in Concordia. He and his wife Vera have lived in Concordia since 1961. They have eight children, three of whom live at home.**

Ernest A. Girard

KANSAN 4-15-82

# Hire Director Of Economic Development

Concordia City Manager Carl Metzger has announced the appointment of Glen Walker as the city's first Director of Economic Development.

Walker has six years of rural industrial development experience. He served two years as executive director of the Clarinda, Ia., Industrial Development Corporation and four years as executive director of the Rice County Economic Development Corp. For the past two years he has worked for the state of Kansas a program specialist for employment and training under the Kansas Department of Human Resources.

Walker graduated from Iowa State University and completed advance training in economic development through the nationally recognized University of Oklahoma Industrial Development Institute. He also completed the United States Department of Agriculture National Rural Development Leadership School at the University of Colorado.

The new city employee will assume his duties Monday, April 19 and will oversee the development and direction of programs associated with retention, recruitment and also the promotion of business and industry in Concordia. "The goal of this program is to increase job opportunities, encourage taxable growth, and meet the needs of current and prospective businesses," said City Manager Metzger.

The director of economic development will be accountable to the city manager for his activities. He will also be accountable to the newly formed Industrial Development Advisory Commission. Chaired by Ray Houser, the commission members have been selected based on recommendations from the Concordia Industrial Development Association board of directors and the Chamber of Commerce board of directors, Metzger reports. The commission will aid in policy development and will function in an advisory capacity to the director.

# Constructive Playthings Co. damaged by fire

4-15-82

A fire believed to have been started by lightning destroyed a major portion of the Constructive Playthings Co. in Concordia's Nor'neast Industrial Park early this morning.

The Concordia Fire Department was called to the scene about 3:45 a.m. by someone apparently working the night shift at CE Kansas Manufacturing in a nearby building. Firemen reported that the blaze had a good start when they arrived at the scene. The firm's night shift had closed the building at midnight and the building was unoccupied when the fire broke out. Approximately a third of the building, a metal structure several hundred feet long, was engulfed in flames when fire department personnel arrived.

A severe thunderstorm with heavy lightning and some marbel-sized hail passed through the Concordia area between 2 o'clock and 3 a.m. and fire officials today said that it appeared lightening from the storm ignited the fire which was then fueled by the building's contents. A large portion of the factory which builds wooden toys and shelving for schools was filled with wood stacked nine to 12 feet high in storage areas, firemen said.

Firemen were faced with controlling the fire as it spread through the densely-packed wood and threatened to spread to a storage area at the north end of the building where several large barrels of paint thinner and combustible materials were stored. They worked until 9 a.m. this morning bringing the fire under control before it ignited the combustible products.

Their efforts were hampered by a lack of sufficient water since only one fire hydrant is accessible to the area. The question of adequate fire protection in the industrial park has troubled city officials for some time, but no action has been taken to add to the available water supply in the area which rests on the eastern edge of the city.

Firemen and city crews were busy throughout the day today assisting with the clean-up as smoke continued to settle over the industrial park behind the building.

Officials of the company, based in Kansas City, arrived on the scene this morning to survey the damage and make plans for rebuilding. Elvin Klein, president of U.S. Toy Company which owns Constructive Playthings, accompanied by Bill Todd, the contractor for the Metal Buildings Sales, the firm which built the building ten years ago, both said it was too early to assess the damage.

They would however, rebuild, they said.

Klein said he expected the business which employs 16 persons locally to be back in business within 90 days.

They said the building was adequately insured and would be replaced.

John Peck, president of the Concordia Development Co. which has a mortgage on the building but not its contents, said he sees no problems with rebuilding the facility immediately and he expects the loan to be continued.

# Downtown restaurant opens today

4-19-82

A new family restaurant opened in Concordia this morning. The Tiffany Steakhouse and Pizza, Sixth and Broadway, opened its doors to a crowd attending its open house today.

The restaurant will feature a full menu from steaks and seafood to sandwiches and pizza, seven days a week, from 11 a. m. until 10 a. m. Its owner-operators George Koutsougeras and Toni Farmakoulas say they believe their restaurant meets a need in Concordia and they plan to offer quality dining at reasonable prices.

Koutsougeras and Farmakoulas, natives of Greece, are veterans of 12 years in the restaurant business. They also operate a restaurant in Hiawatha. Koutsougeras explained that they were en route between visiting friends in Salina and their home in Hiawatha and had stopped in Concordia and could not find a restaurant when the idea to open one here struck them. The Tiffany location, in the former Maley's IGA building, owned by Helen and Ruth Carlgren, was chosen because of its availability, location and size. With the Carlgren ' help, they were able to convert the former grocery store into a restaurant which accommodates 80 persons in its main dining area and another 130 persons in two private party rooms.

The restaurant employs 17 persons.

KANSAN - 4-15-82

# Early Morning Fire Destroys Toy Factory

Concordia firemen were called to the Constructive Playthings wood toy factory in the southeast corner of the Concordia industrial park early this morning. The alarm was turned in at 2:50 a.m. and the fire was still burning within the building at mid-morning. The steel building is still standing but the interior is beely damaged.

The middle section of the large structure appeared to be the worst damaged with holes burnt in the west or back wall. The building was partially filled with wood such as hard maple, used to construct the children's wood toys. It also contains a quantity of finishing materials and woodworking machinery. The business employs about 20 persons and during the past winter was operating two shifts to handle the large number of orders for the sturdy toys used primarily in schools.

Firemen would not guess about the cause of the fire, however, the alarm came in as a severe lighting storm left the Concordia area. A severe thunderstorm warning for Concordia ended at 2:45 a.m. Fire officials were contacting the State Fire Marshall's office this morning for assistance in investigation of the fire.

Blade-Weekly 4-20-82

# Fire destroys company

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Their efforts were hampered by a lack of sufficient water since only one fire hydrant is accessible to the area. The question of adequate fire protection in the industrial park has troubled city officials for some time, but no action has been taken to add to the available water supply in the area which rests on the eastern edge of the city.

Firemen and city crews were busy throughout the day today assisting with the clean-up as smoke continued to settle over the industrial park behind the building.

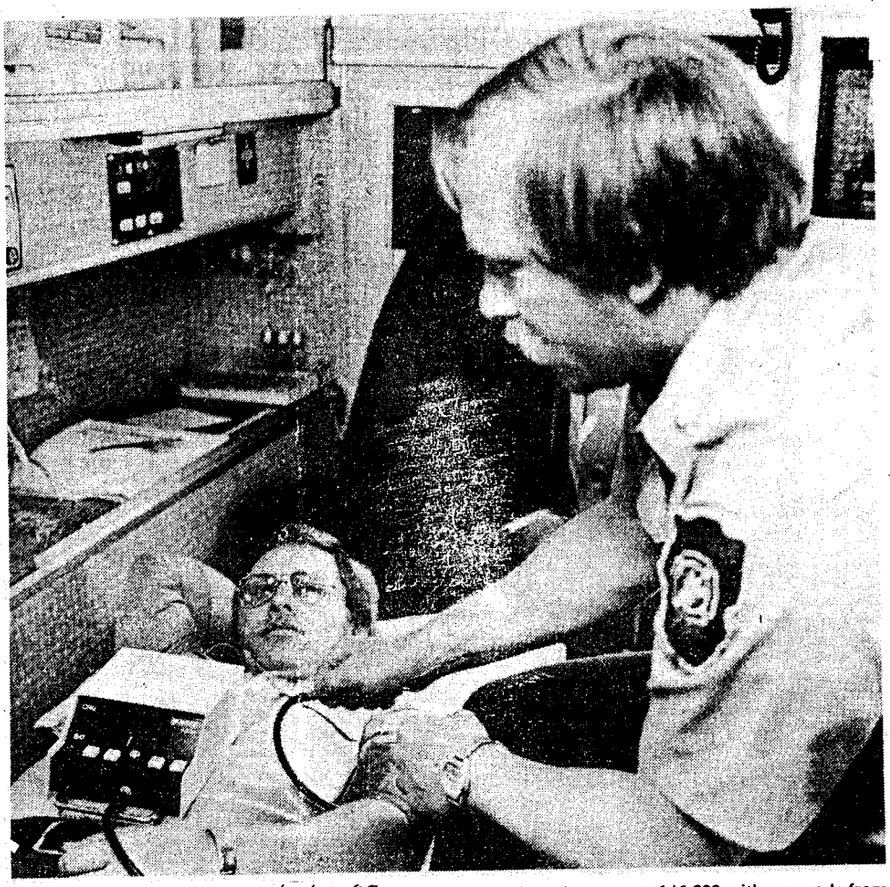
Officials of the company, based in Kansas City, arrived on the scene this morning to survey the damage and make plans for rebuilding. Elvin Klein, president of U.S. Toy Company which owns Constructive Playthings, accompanied by Bill Todd, the contractor for the Metal Buildings Sales, the firm which built the building ten years ago, both said it was too early to assess the damage.

They would however, rebuild, they said.

Klein said he expected the business which employs 16 persons locally to be back in business within 90 days.

They said the building was adequately insured and would be replaced.

John Peck, president of the Concordia Development Co. which has a mortgage on the building but not its contents, said he sees no problems with rebuilding the facility immediately and he expects the loan to be continued.



***Pressure checked*** 4-20-82

**Concordia city fireman Brad Hopkins, right, checked the blood pressure and pulse of fellow fireman Willie Higgins, left, this morning as the two men tested a new Biomega Blood Pressure and Pulse Monitor being installed in the city's new ambulance. The new piece of equipment, purchased at a cost of $1,200 with proceeds from the sale of an old ambulance and contributions from individuals and civic groups, allows the ambulance attendants to monitor a person's blood pressure and pulse without interference from road noise. (Blade-Empire photo by Chris Black)**

## Cemetery clean-up 4-21-82

**Spring clean-up of Pleasant Hill Cemetery will begin the first week of May. Anyone having wreaths or other winter florals they wish to save must have them picked up by April 30, or make other arrangements prior to this day by calling the Park Department at 243-7600.**

## Lifesaving offered 4-21-82

**There will be a meeting for persons interested in taking a Red Cross Advanced Lifesaving class, Monday, April 26, at 4:30 p. m. at the Nazareth Motherhouse pool. Participants must be 15 years of age, or older to take part in the class. For further information, contact Marikay Hull, 243-2494.**

KANSAN 4-22-82

GLEN WALKER began his new duties Monday as the Director of Economic Development for the city of Concordia. The new city position is similar to a department head job under the city manager, Carl Metzger. Purpose of the new program is to increase job opportunities here, thus improving taxable growth. Walker will be working with both current and prospective businesses and industries.

# Tiffany Steak House Opens

KANSAN 4-22-82

The Tiffany Steak House, located at Sixth and Broadway in Concordia, opened for business on Monday, April 19. The building which was Cook's IGA and later the Maley IGA, was completely redecorated by the building owner, Ruth Carlgren, with remodeling work being done by Ganstrom and Johnston Contractors.

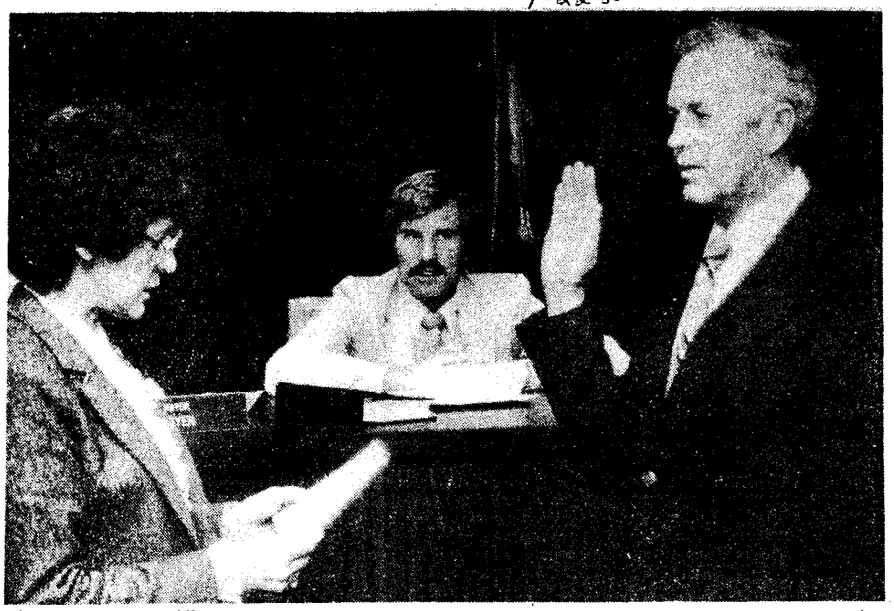
The restaurant will seat about 250 persons including the two large party room. Hours for the new restaurant will be from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week and will feature a full menu from steaks, seafood, pizza to sandwiches. The new owners are George Koutsougeras and Toni Farmakoulas who are natives of Greece and have hald 12 years experience in the restaurant business.

Koutsougeras and Farmakoulas were enroute to Hiawatha from Salina from a visit with friends when they stopped in Concordia to eat and could not find a restaurant open here. They decided Concordia would be an ideal place to open a restaurant. They contacted Helen and Ruth Carlgren about the building downtown, because of its size and the restaurant they own and operate in Hiawatha is downtown and is doing so well.

To date they have hired 17 employees and may need to hire additional help as the public demands. They state they plan to offer quality dining and reasonable prices.

Koutsougeras and Farmakoulas invite the public to stop by and get acquainted.

4-22-82



***Girard takes office***

City Clerk Verna Scott, left, administered the oath of office to Ernest Girard, right, Wednesday afternoon, as Commissioner Dr. Greg Hattan, center, looked on. Girard took his seat on the three-member commission at Wednesday's meeting replacing former Commissioner Wilbur Naylor.

## Hattan chosen mayor

4-22-82

# Commissioner Girard sworn in

It was reorganization day for the Concordia city commission yesterday as Ernest Girard was sworn in as a new commissioner and Dr. Greg Hattan was elected mayor.

Before the swearing in ceremony the commissioners reviewed the election report submitted by the county commissioners board of canvassers which indicated that Girard received 746 votes and his opponent Dale Busby received 161 votes of the 907 votes cast.

Girard is replacing Wilbur Naylor, who did not seek re-election after serving one three-year term. Naylor was presented a plaque from the city for his term of office. Commissioner Lee Doyen expressed the commission's appreciation to Naylor for his service to the community. "We're happy that you shared some of your retirement time to help the community," he said.

Naylor said that he hoped he had been of service to the community. During his years on the commission, the city has puchased a new fire truck, a new ambulance, U.S. 81 has been resurfaced, a new shop building constructed, and property taxes have been kept to a minimum, he said. He said he was pleased the citizens approved a ½ cent sales tax which gives the commissioners greater flexibility. "It's been a pleasure to serve and this concludes 46 years of public service and I think it's time I hang up my spurs," Naylor said.

After Girard was sworn in, the commissioners elected Dr. Hattan mayor. The mayor in the city commission form of government presides at commission meetings and serves as ceremonial head of city government.

Also as part of the annual reorganizational meeting the Blade-Empire was designated as official city newspaper. An official newspaper is designated for the purpose of publishing legal notices. To be designated as a legal publication a newspaper must have a general circulation in the immediate area, must have a paid circulation, and must publish on a consistent basis.

City manager Carl Metzger reported to the commissioners that the city currently has $694,000 in idle funds and all but $325.00 is invested.

The commissioners approved resolutions authorizing the issuance of temporary notes in the amounts of $14,525.00 and $52,106.00. The smaller issuance will be used to finance construction of the Valley Street water well house addition. The larger issuance will be used to finance development of the new water well as Third and Broadway.

A third resolution was approved declaring the necessity to make additional waterwell improvements and authorized the submission of such plans to the Kansas Corporation Commission. The project involves the refurbishing of waterwells in the northwest well field and test hole drilling performed as numerous sites within the city limits. The engineer's estimate of the project is $52,586.00. The work included refurbishing of three waterwells and the drilling of numerous test holes at 17 different sites.

Metzger also reported to the commissioners that an insurance package has been put together for the city's buildings and contents which will result in savings of more than $6,000.

DR. H.C. HATTAN

4-28-

***New mayor begins duties***

Concordia's new mayor, Dr. Greg Hattan, center, got off to an early start on his ceremonial duties this morning as he wielded the Scissors of Success in what was a family affair of sorts. Mayor Hattan's first ribbon cutting today marked the opening of his father, Concordia dentist Dr. H. C. Hattan's new office at 501 Washington. Pictured here, holding the ribbon are, dental assistant Sharon Brown, left, and Mrs. Greg Hattan and Mrs. H. C. Hattan on the right, along with a group of local businessmen and well-wishers.

CONCORDIA, CLOUD COUNTY, KANSAS 66901, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1982 (USP

ALL IN THE FAMILY—Dr. H. C. Hattan held an open house Thursday, April 22 at the new location of his dental care office at 501 Washington. Pictured at the ribbon cutting are, at left holding ribbon is Sharon Brown, an employee; Dr. H. C. Hattan, Mayor Greg Hattan, Janice Hattan, and Margaret Hattan. Dr. H. C. and Margaret are the parents of Dr. Greg also a dentist as well as mayor. Janice is wife of Dr. Greg Hattan and daughter-in-law of Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Hattan. Greg Hattan became Concordia's mayor only the day before the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

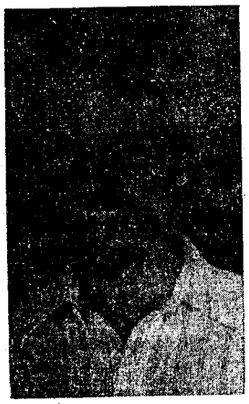
—Photo by William DeArmond

Kansan 4-22-82

# Dr. Greg Hattan Named Mayor; Girard Sworn in

Dr. Greg Hattan was elected as Concordia mayor and chairman of the city commission during the commission's annual reorganization meeting Wednesday afternoon. It is his first term as mayor, a job usually passed among the three-member commission. Lee Doyen has been mayor the past year.

Just prior to the election of mayor, Concordia's new commissioner, Ernest Girard, received the oath of office from City Clerk Verna Scott. The city commission received the official April 6 vote canvass from the county commission indicating Girard received 746 votes and Dale Busby 161 votes. The vote tally was the same as that reported just after the election.



Mayor Greg Hattan

Commissioner Wilbur Naylor retired from the commission after serving a three-year term and one of those years as mayor. Commissioner Doyen presented a plaque to Naylor as a momento of his service to the city and thanked the retiree for his work the past three years. Doyen said Naylor had contributed much time and thought on improvements made here the past three years.

City Manager Carl Metzger thanked Naylor and presented him with a large brass "key to City Hall."

In a brief comment, Naylor said he felt the city and commission had accomplished some improvements such as improvements in the fire department and ambulance service, resurfacing of US-81 in town, and with the one-half cent sales tax approved by votes will give the city greater flexibility and help to hold down property taxes. He advised this rounded out 46 years of public service. Naylor was conservationist with the Soil Conservation service prior to his retirement a few years ago.

Naylor and Girard were honored following the meeting when cake and coffee were served. In attendance were Mrs. Naylor, Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Hattan, Mrs. Greg Hattan, Mrs. Lee Doyen, Janet Metzger, Carol Flewelling, and Bill Bryant, as well as other guests at the commission meeting.

One of Mayor Hattan's first jobs in his new position was to sign a proclamation designating Saturday as VFW Buddy Poppy Day in Concordia. Present for the signing were Jack Krager, VFW commander; Fedora Nobert and Maryjo Stortz.

Mayor Hattan also had another job on tap. He helped cut the ribbon Thursday morning at the open house of his father's new dental offices. Dr. H. C. Hattan, father of the mayor, Greg Hattan, recently moved into new quarters at 501 Washington, the old Regnier Auto Parts building at 5th and Washington.

used to finance projects until the city has a bond sale.

The engineer's estimate of $34,586 was approved for refurbishing of three wells in the northwest well field and the 17 different test holes for possible new water well sites drilled the past year. The plans and specifications are now submitted to the KCC for approval.

Surety bonds of $5,000 each were approved for Commissioners Doyen, Hattan, and Girard.

City Manager Metzger advised commissioners several of the city's fire insurance policies on city buildings had been consolidated, resulting in a $6,000 savings to the city. He said study of other city insurance consolidations revealed no possible savings and changes would be made only if the city could save money. He said next year bids may be taken on the city's insurance if local agencies are interested.

City Manager Metzger introduced Glen Walker during the meeting. Walker is the city's new Director of Economic Development who began Monday. Walker said after the meeting he already was busy with his job and had been in contact with the owners of Constructive Playthings toy factory here to be of assistance in getting the firm re-established. The toy plant was virtually destroyed by fire a week ago.

A study session was set for April 29 at 12:15 p.m.

### Business Approved

The commission also covered routine business matters during the Wednesday afternoon meeting.

The city manager reported the city has nearly $694,000 in total funds with all but $325 invested in some type of interest bearing accounts from one-day to long term accounts. He advised this is only possible through the cooperation of local financial institutions. Metzger also said the first quarter investment earnings exceed the same quarter a year ago.

Resolutions were approved authorizing issuance of temporary notes in the amounts of $14,525 and $52,106 to pay for water department improvements. The work includes the Valley Street wellhouse addition, and the new water well at Third and Broadway. The temporary notes are

# Six men arrested in local drug raid

4-29-82

**Concordia police and Cloud County sheriff's department officers conducted a raid on a house at 1421 Cedar Wednesday evening and arrested six men on drug charges.**

**Charges were to be filed today in Cloud County District Court against Torrence P. Head, a resident of the house, for possession of marijuana, possession with intent to sell a hallucenagenic drug, marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia.**

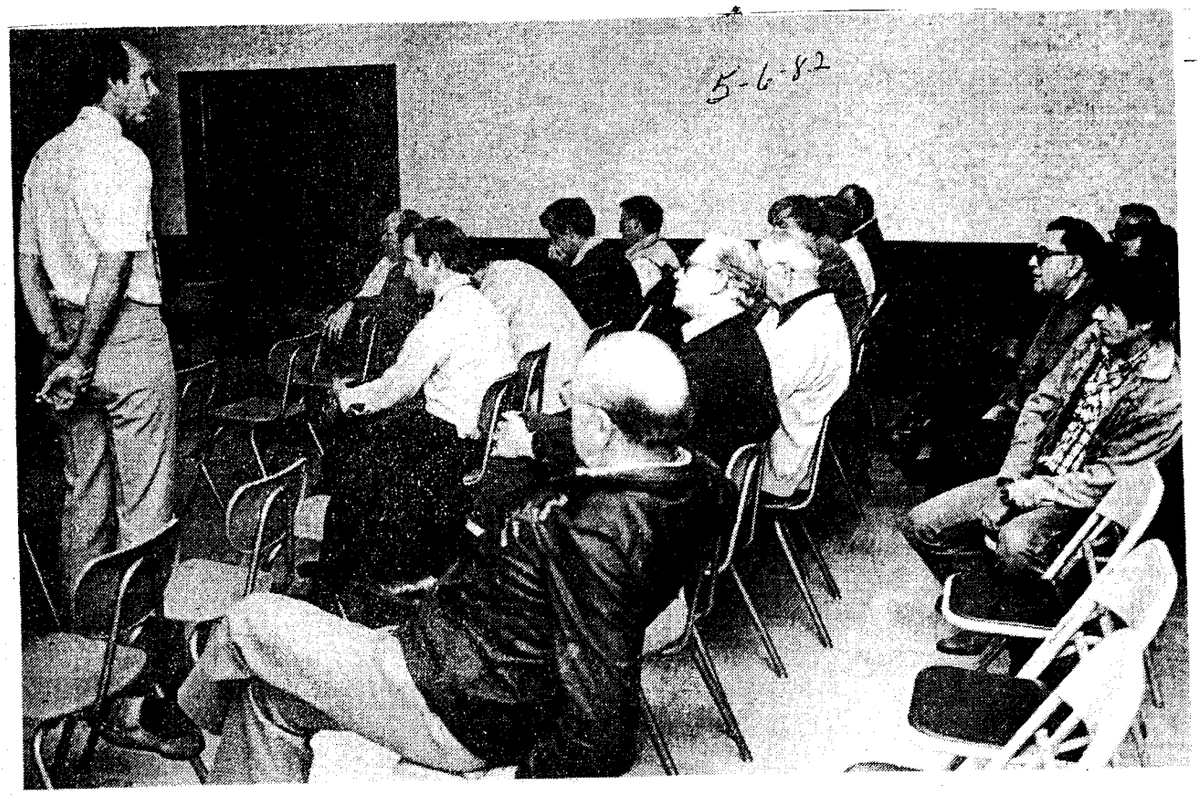
**Charges were also being filed against Mitchel D. Wulfekoetter for possession of marijuana; Jeffrey Smith, possession of marijuana; Steve Ward, possession of marijuana; James L. Hopkins, Jr., possession of marijuana, possession of amphetamines and possession of drug paraphernalia; and Everette Ross Barr, possession of marijuana.**

**Warrants were also being issued for two residents of the house not present at the time of the raid. Charges were being drawn up against Aaron Gardenhire for possession of drug paraphernalia, and against Kent Schwarz for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.**

**All of the charges against the men, students at Cloud County Community College, whose ages and addresses were not given are misdemeanors with the exception of the possession with intent to sell a hallucenagenic drug charge against Head. Possession with intent to sell is classified as a felony.**

**Wednesday's arrests, after officers used a warrant to search the house, concluded what police described as an "on-going investigation in regard to illegal drug activity" believed to be conducted at the house.**

5-6-82



***Final argument heard***

**Representatives of both sides of a recent debate on plans for downtown redevelopment in Concordia attended Wednesday's city commission meeting at which final arguments were heard and a modified plan was approved. Above, Keith Palmquist, a proponent of the redevelopment project, answered questions from the audience. (Blade-Empire photo by Chris Black)**

# Downtown plan given final OK

The Concordia city commissioners yesterday approved a downtown redevelopment plan with an estimated cost of $285,700.49 which includes the resurfacing of Sixth Street and the construction of new sidewalks from Lincoln to State and the minor beautification of Sixth Street from Broadway to State.

The overall redevelopment plan embodies two separate but simultaneous and coordinated projects. The property owners in the two-block area from State to Broadway circulated and presented to the commissioners a petition requesting the beautification of their two-block area. The city commissioners at the same time passed a resolution ordering a public hearing of the advisability of resurfacing the street and constructing new sidewalks in the one block area from Lincoln to Broadway.

The resolution authorizing the improvements in the two blocks which includes the beautification effort was passed under Kansas statute K.S.A. 12-6a04 which provides that no protest shall be accepted by the city clerk since the project was initiated by petition. However, the other project since it was initiated by the city is subject to a protest period and a public hearing must be conducted before final authorization can be given by the city commissioners.

The petition submitted by the Downtown Business Development Task Force was signed by property owners representing 54 percent of the property in the benefit district. The city since passage of a 1978 policy statement concerning improvement projects has accepted all petitions requesting improvement projects which represent 51 percent of the land in the benefit district.

The engineer's estimate of the cost in the beautification district is $218,984.78 with the city at large paying 25.83 percent ($56,563.77) and the property owners in the benefit district paying $162,421.01 (74.17 percent). City manager Carl Metzger emphasized that these are maximum dollar amounts and that the project would not proceed if the bids on the project come in above the engineer's estimate.

The beautification features have been scaled down considerably since a serious effort to improve the downtown shopping district was begun more than six months ago. The project as approved calls for the resurfacing of Sixth Street and the construction of new sidewalks, the construction of eight pedestrian peninsulas and two pedestrian mid-block crosswalks, the planting of 24 trees with modified irrigation system, trash receptables and drainage gates. The original project proposed by the development task force would have cost more than $600,000.

The cost to the property owner in the benefit district for a 22 foot lot will be $2,137.12 if paid when the cost is presented to the county clerk for addition to the property tax rolls. If the property owner chooses to pay the project over the 15 year period of the bonds which will be sold to finance the project the cost is estimated a $256.46 per year or $21.37 per month. Metzger pointed out that the cost of the basic improvements account for $14.37 of the average monthly cost while the beautification cost amounts to $7.00 of the average monthly billing.

Metzger said that based on current personal property valuation and projected valuation estimates for the city at large, the project will require the city to raise approximately $56,563.77 in principal and $45,250.98 in interest over the 15-year period of the bonds. He said the estimated average mill levy for this project is .33 mills per year.

sufficient in the original petition which requested the beautification in the three block area and because of some reluctance on the part of the state highway department to go along with the project in the block from Lincoln to Broadway which also serves as a portion of Highway 9.

Commissioner Lee Doyen said that during his six years on the commission, the governing body has always gone along with any petition which appears feasible and represents a majority of the property owners in the benefit district. "I've always gone along with the majority and that's the way we've been operating and that is why I support this project," Doyen said. He also said that it has been obvious for a number of years that something had to be done downtown.

New city commissioner Ernest Girard said that he believed in going along with the majority and that 43 property owners had signed the petition and that that represented a majority.

Concordia realtor Everett Morgan said that he thought the method of coming up with a second petition when the first petition seemed doomed was unfair. He said that it is conceivable that a petition could be declared sufficient when 80 percent of the people in one block were against the project and 81 percent of the people in another block were in favor of the project.

Dr. Hattan said that during the six and one half months that those people interested in the project have made compromise after compromise and taken many suggestions attempting to find something suitable to the majority, while those opposing the project have made no compromises.

Vern Bowyer, owner of Gambles, said he would like Mr. Palmquist (Keith) and Mr. Carlgren (Stefan) to go to towns which have trees in the downtown area and see how they like them.

Palmquist, co-owner of Palmquist Drug Store, said that he has learned in the nearly two years that he has worked on the project that there is no way to suit everyone. "To be progressive we have to stay and look progressive," he said. "Are we going to wait another 30 years and just let the town dry up? We've compromised until we have a plan with majority acceptance. I think it is a plan with a realistic price and a realistic scope of beautification."

Palmquist also suggested that Bowyer look at Cloud County Bank & Trust and "see how beautiful the trees

estimated cost of that project is $66,715.71 with the city at large paying 26.74 percent and the property owners in the benefit district 73.26 percent.

Metzger said that the city intends to limit the bidding on the project to local contractors. He said that after a meeting he and city engineer Paul Johnson had with local contractors it was decided to break the project down into half block increments.

Metzger said that Quartzite had agreed to let the local contractors share some of its concrete finishing equipment and that the contractors had agreed to maintain access to the places of business during construction and to not open more sidewalk than could be replaced in two working days.

In other business the commissioners amended three ordinances to make them more enforceable and repealed an old ordinance no longer applicable to the city's scope of responsibilities.

The first ordinance addressed by the commissioners was the one concerning licensing for going out of business sales. Under the original ordinance the city was required to monitor inventory levels which was not practical based on the size of the city's staff. The new ordinance still requires the license, but eliminates the inventory monitoring clause.

The other two ordinance changes increased the police department's ability to enforce ordinances covering loitering and unlawful assembly. Metzger said that under the two previous ordinances the police have had difficulty in dispersing young people who gather in the 3M parking lot and at Love's Country Store.

The ordinance taken off the books dealt with the city's regulation of the production and selling of milk in the city. Metzger said that the ordinance being repealed was passed in 1951 and has not been applicable for a number of years.

The commissioners accepted the bid of S&L Homes for construction of a well house at the new Joler Park waterwell site. S&L;s low bid was for $10,700.00. The other bid received by the city was from Goff Construction at a price of $11,503.56.

Metzger told the commissioners that the swimming pool would open May 29 and be open daily until Aug. 22. He said it also would be open the weekends of Aug. 28-29 and Sept. 4, 5, and 6.

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Metzger said that additional precautions were taken in determining whether the signatures on the petition were valid and that the signatures had been checked at least four or five times during the course of the proceedings. He also said that before approving the project the commissioners considered the advisability of the improvement, the nature of the improvement, the estimated cost, the boundaries of the improvement district, the method of assessment of the cost, and the apportionment of the cost between the city at large and property owners in the benefit district.

Mayor Greg Hattan said that the revised petition requesting the beautification in the two block area came about when interest seemed not sufficient in the original petition which requested the beautification in the three block area and because of some reluctance on the part of the state highway department to go along with the project in the block from Lincoln to Broadway which also serves as a portion of Highway 9.

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Morgan said he was presenting a petition of opposition from the north side of the block from Washington to State Street which had more than 60 of the property owners opposing the project. Mayor Hattan explained to him again that the city clerk could not accept it as a protest petition, but would accept it as a letter of dissent and place it in the public record.

Morgan then requested and was granted copies of the petitions requesting the project. He said that he wanted to audit the signatures.

The public hearing on the improvement project for the one block area from Lincoln to Broadway will be Wednesday, May 4 at 4 p. m. at the city commission meeting room. The estimated cost of that project is $66,715.71 with the city at large paying 26.74 percent and the property owners in the benefit district 73.26 percent.

Metzger said that the city intends to limit the bidding on the project to local contractors. He said that after a meeting he and city engineer Paul Johnson had with local contractors it was decided to break the project down into half block increments.

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He said that hours have been extended to 1 p. m. to 8 p. m. in May, June and August and from 1 p. m. to 9 p. m. in July.

The city manager said that ticket prices would remain the same, but more effective methods of collection from season ticket holders would be initiated.

The pool will remain open for all scheduled hours and will only close when there is an indication of inclement weather, he said. In the past the pool has closed in the evenings when there are six or fewer swimmers in the pool, he said.

Another feature being reinstated this year is the noon free swimming for adults, Metzger said. The city also is attempting to lease the concession operation on a contractual agreement with an individual or individuals, he said.

Kansan 5-6-82

# City Accepts Petitions for Downtown Improvement

A two-block area of downtown Concordia will receive a face-lift according to action taken at the city commission meeting Wednesday afternoon. However, the improvement area takes in only two blocks of the four blocks in the original plan.

The petitions submitted by a group of downtown property owners and business managers was signed by just over 54% of the property owners who will be liable for the costs of the proposed improvement. The benefit district on the petitions are listed as the two blocks between Broadway and State Streets only on 6th Street—portions of Blocks 134, 135, 148 and 149. In this two-block benefit district improvements will include new curbs and guttering and new sidewalks, all of which the city planned to have done with or without the petitions, plus decorative corner treatment at each of the four corners in the two blocks, a mid-block cross walk for pedestrians, planting of 24 trees with modified irrigation system, trash receptacles and drainage grates.

The trees would be at each of the eight corners (two each) and two each at the mid-block cross-walks on each side of 6th Street. The original plan and a second plan called for numerous additional trees. The plan approved yesterday was the third plan.

The total cost of the two block improvements are listed as $218,385, with the city-at-large paying almost 26% or $56,564 and the benefit district paying 74% or $162,421. There are 76 lots in the district (only those fronting on 6th Street) resulting in a cost of $2,137 per 22-foot lot to be financed over a 15-year period. Adding another estimated $1,710 for financing (total of $3,847 per lot) leaves an estimated $256 per lot, per year, or $21.37 per month, the proponents point out.

Phil Nault, a member of the ad hoc Downtown Business Development Task Force that has been working on downtown improvement suggestions for two years introduced the petitions in behalf of the committee.

Everett Morgan, representing a group of opponents to the project submitted a petition he claimed was signed by over 60% of the property owners in the west block (Washington to State Streets) who opposed the beautification project.

Mayor Greg Hattan, prepared for the situation, immediately advised Morgan his petition was not legal as the petitions calling for the improvement are not subject to protest since they were signed by 54% of the property owners in the specified benefit district. Morgan pointed out, in an effort to get the block in which he owns real estate taken out of the benefit district, that less than 40% of the property owners signed the improvement petitions, while probably 75% to 80% signed in the block between Broadway and Washington.

Hattan advised the protest however could be submitted as a document of descent. Further, he again pointed out the improvement petiitons were determined sufficient by the commission.

Commissioner Lee Doyen said the improvement plan was the only plan he'd seen in his six years on the commission that looked feasible. Commissioner Ernie Girard pointed out there were 43 yeses to 30 no's on the petitions making them sufficient.

**Other Improvements**

The commission also approved a resolution directing and ordering a public hearing on the advisability of improvements in portions of Blocks 136 and 147, or from Lincoln to Broadway on 6th Street. The proposed work would include new curbs and guttering, new sidewalks, and trash receptacles. The work, initiated by the city and not by petitions from a benefit district includes the basic work on the petitions for the work in the being initiated by the city and the hearing date was set for the next meeting—Wednesday, May 19.

In other action, the city commission approved a bid from S and L Homes, Concordia, for a wellhouse at the site of a new city water well in Joler Park at the southwest corner of town. The firm's bid was $10,700, well under the engineer's estimated cost of $12,100. The only other bidder was Goff Construction at $11,503.56. City Manager Carl Metzger pointed out the low bid was comparable to the price of the new wellhouse at 3rd and Broadway which cost $10,614.64. The two structures are identical the city manager said.

The commission also did some "house-cleaning" of its code book. These updating changes included the following:

—Changed the ordinance regulating going-out-of-business sales deleting sections concerning the requirement of an inventory list and venification of the inventory. Metzger said the city is unable to adequately enforce the inventory control on such sales. However, the city still requires a license for a going-out-of-business sale with a 30-day permit which can be renewed only once for an additional 30 days.

—Revised its ordinance relating to loitering in public places, as recommended by Police Chief Dennis Rohr. The new section approved is designed to help police regulate problems around fast-food establishments and other similar places of business. The revision more clearly defines the kinds of behavior that constitutes a misdemeanor.

—Repealed an ordinance relating to milk grading and regulating milk sales. The city manager advised the city has not been in this business for a number of years and the milk business is now regulated entirely by the state.

The commission received a report on the proposed summer operation of the swimming pool which opens May 29. These plans will be printed later this month, prior to the pool opening.

Other persons attending the meeting Wednesday, not mentioned in the preceding story included: Don Mann, Larry Uri, Fay Blair, Stefan Carlgren, Keith Palmquist, Elmer Palmquist, Art Slaughter, Robert Rasure, Bob Nicholson, Jack Chaney, Vern Bowyer, Bill Smith, Jack Gould, Richard Culbertson, Bill Henderson, and Paul Johnson, city engineer.

Ron Champlin was also a visitor at the meeting seeking permission to terrace a steep incline at this home by using railroad ties. The property is city-owned right-of-way and the commission agreed to look at the property with Champlin at its study session set for May 13 at 12:15 p.m.

# *Faulty lock blamed for governor's entrapment*

5-14-82

When Governor John Carlin stopped in Concordia this past week on his tour of several north central Kansas farm communities, it generated little news, although his stay here will probably be one of the most memorable of his career.

The governor made an unscheduled stop in the rest room of the airport lobby and stayed longer than he had expected when a lock on the door broke trapping the governor inside.

Already nearly an hour behind schedule, the governor's tour was delayed for an estimated ten minutes while airport employees removed several screws from the door and took the door knob off to free the chief executive. Once again a free man, Carlin and his entourage of nearly 20 persons disembarked via their waiting aircraft for Hill City.

Carlin and his party had been scheduled to fly out of Concordia's Blosser Municipal Airport shortly before 2 p.m. Monday after having traveled by car from Marysville, while the pilots of the two twin engine planes flew ahead to Concordia to pick up the governor's party. Carlin had several stops scheduled in Marshall and Washington counties, including a luncheon stop in Clifton. He departed Concordia shortly before 3 p.m., nearly an hour behind schedule.

Concordia City Manager Carl Metzger said he was informed of the incident after the governor had left. "Otherwise, I suppose we could have gone out there and presented him with the key to the city."

## Hydrant flushing to begin next week

5-14-82

The City Water Department will conduct its annual spring fire hydrant flushing on the dead-ends of water mains and selected problem area on Wednesday, May 19. The flushing will involve the entire city. Flushing will be done from 9th street south in the morning and from 9th street north in the afternoon.

This is being done to flush the manganese that has accumulated in the pipes over the winter. People may want to refrain from doing laundry on this day. The Water Department appreciates your cooperation.

improvements are listed as $218,325, with the city-at-large paying almost 26% or $56,584 and the benefit district paying 74% or $162,421. There are 76 lots in the district (only those fronting on 6th Street) resulting in a cost of $2,137 per 22-foot lot to be financed over a 15-year period. Adding another estimated $1,710 for financing (total of $3,847 per lot) leaves an estimated $256 per lot, per year, or $21.37 per month, the proponents point out.

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The estimated cost of the work from Lincoln to Broadway is set at $66,716, with 73% to be paid by the benefit district and about 27% by the city-at-large. The city-at-large portion is somewhat more due to the city-owned lots in the block. A public hearing must be held on this improvement work since it is approved is designed to help police regulate problems around fast-food establishments and other similar places of business. The revision more clearly defines the kinds of behavior that constitutes a misdemeanor.

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KANSAN- 5-20-82

# City Reinstates Intangible Tax

Concordia city commissioners took action Wednesday afternoon re-establishing the intangibles tax—to be called "City Gross Earnings Tax on Intangibles"—for the current year and for 1983.

In recommending the move, City Manager Carl Metzger advised that the city stood to lose about $70,000 in income per year without the intangibles income at a rate of 2.25%. (The county can also re-establish the tax at a rate of .75%, making a total of 3%, the same figure it has been here in the past.) Metzger further stated that if the $70,000 loss is replaced by additional ad valorem property tax levy it would mean an increase of 4.2 mills using the 1981 assessed valuation.

The former Kansas intangibles tax law was declare unconstitutional by the Kansas Supreme Court earlier this year. The Kansas legislature recently passed legislation allowing counties and cities to re-establish the tax locally, if they desire. Both the city and county commissions have indicated for several weeks they plan to re-establish the intangibles tax, in lieu of raising property taxes to cover the loss, or reduce services.

**The new law does not permit a referendum on the question of whether or not to levy a gross earnings tax for 1982.**

However, the city manager advised, the law does permit voter petitions beginning Jan. 1, 1983, for a referendum to both levy the tax or to repeal the tax. The ballot proposition will be similar to that which existed under previous state law. "It must cover the dual proposition of both repealing the tax and at the same time authorizing the imposition of property taxes in addition to any tax lid amount, sufficient to offset the revenue lost from elimination of the intangibles tax," reported City Manager Metzger. The earliest the city voters could vote on this question would be in the 1983 spring city election.

In pointing out the need to re-establish the tax in the city, Commissioner Lee Doyen said he felt the tax was fair since people having investments in homes or rental property must pay property taxes so people with cash investments should help support local services. He also said he did not think Concordians want further reduction of services and only other alternative besides re-establishing the intangibles tax is to increase property taxes. He also believed local taxpayers may see a 15 mill property tax increase (over-all) since the state eliminated the intangibles, is taking farm machinery off the assessmeno rolls, other items in the future.

Mayor Greg Hattan said that in 1983 the exemption on intangibles tax increases to $5,000 for

# —City Tax

(Continued from Page One)

persons over 60 years of age, which may be some consolation to this group that generally opposed the taxing of interest income. He advised this means a person with $42,000 cash investment at 12% interest would not have any intangibles tax to pay. However, that is not true of 1982.

The commission approved two ordinances, one covering the intangibles for this year, and the other covers the tax for 1983.

### Other Business

The commission also had other important business before it.

The public hearing on the advisability of new sidewalks, curbing and guttering in Blocks 136 and 147 in downtown Concordia resulted in no objections being registered and the work was approved. The area is from Lincoln to Broadway streets on 6th street and is now a part of the downtown improvement project although it is a separate project. That block will get only new sidewalks in part of the area, and new curbs and gutters, while the two downtown blocks immediately west will get the same work, plus some beautification treatment and a few trees.

The project from Lincoln to Broadway is estimated to cost $66,715, with $48,876 to be assessed against property owners in the block, and $17,839 being paid by the city-at-large. A public hearing was held on this project because it was initiated by the city, while the improvements in the two blocks from Broadway to State streets was initiated by petition from the property owners in the two blocks.

Charles Everitt, a property owner in the block where the improvements were being considered Wednesday, appared at the public hearing. He first advised he agreed most of the work being considered is needed. He also asked that the city take a close look at the sidewalk in front of his properties as it was all replaced in the 1960's and he believed it is still in good condition and could be left as is. However, he agreed that about two feet beyond the sidewalk to the curb, and the curb need replacing.

Mayor Hattan told Everitt the city engineer, Paul Johnson, will be making the decisions on what portions of sidewalks remain and what must be replaced. City Manager Metzger said he had been working some with Johnson but it not yet had been determined which portions were to be replaced. He also advised the condition of the surface is only one factors considered as there are such factors as grade and other considerations.

Everitt was advised to confer with the city engineer on the matter.

### Cablecom Seeks Increase

City Manager Metzger acknowledged receipt of a request from Cablecom General, Inc., requesting a rate increase of $1.25 per month on basic cable TV service in the city. The current charge is $8.20 per month and the increase would make it $9.45. Metzger said he is studying the proposal and financial information from Cablecom and is not yet prepared to make a recommendation. The matter was deferred to the June 2 meeting.

A lease agreement was approved with the North Central Kansas Saddle Club covering use of the rodeo arena and other parts of Fairgrounds Park when it is used for Saddle Club functions. The lease is for a five-year period.

A petition for street improvement in College Heights Addition was tabled pending further requirements.

The city manager reported the new water well at 3rd and Broadway was "brought on line" Wednesday and, as tested, was pumping 350 gallons per minute.

A commission study session was set for May 27, at 12:15 p.m.

KANSAN 5-27-82

# City Swimming Season Opens Saturday

Concordia's Municipal Swimming Pool will begin operation for the summer season on Saturday, May 29. The season will run coninuously through Aug. 22, and then be open on the weekends of Aug. 28-29, and Sept. 4-5-6, Labor Day weekend.

City Manager Carl Metzger reported recently that this year the pool will remain open specific hours and not close early in the evenings if only five or six people are swimming, like in recent seasons. The only exception to the new policy will be when the pool management decides the pool should be closed due to inclement weather conditions.

The city is also trying a varying hour schedule with the pool being open later during July, normally the warmest month. The pool hours for the remainder of May and all of June will be 1 to 8 p.m.; and for July, 1 to 9 p.m. In August and the first weekend in September the hours will return to 1 to 8 p.m.

Season tickets, now on sale at the city hall, and on sale at the pool office beginning Saturday, are the same prices as last year. Rates are: $20 for children 6 through 17; adults 18 and over, $25; and family season ticket, $45. Daily admissions will be 50c for children through age 12; 75c for age 13-17, and $1.00 for adults. The noon swim, designed primarily for adults, will be free this year—a 50c charge was made last year. Also free is use of the wading pool but a parent must be present and resonsible for their child.

The modern, three-pool complex is incharge of John Shaver, director of public grounds, and the pool managers will be Bob Ruzicka and Ted Krone.

# Intangibles tax enacted by city

5-20-82

The Concordia city cimmission yesterday levied a city gross earnings tax on intangibles for the year 1982 to replace the intangibles tax which was repealed by the Kansas legislature during its last session.

In repealing the intangibles tax the legislature passed on to local governing units the authority to levy a tax on earnings from intangible property. The new city gross earnings tax on intangible income is substantially identical to the previous state levied tax.

The city to levy the tax for 1982 on 1981 intangible income to provide revenues for the 1983 budget year was required to pass an ordinance prior to June 15, 1982, according to city manager Carl Metzger. Metzger explained that there was no protest or appeal possibly by the public for the first year levy. However, he said, that to levy the tax for 1984 an ordinance must be adopted by Sept. 1, 1982. That ordinance is subject to petition protest and a referendum vote. The earliest a matter could be considered by the voters would be during a primary election in March 1983 or the general city election in April of 1982.

Metzger said that the city of Concordia has been receiving approximately $70,000 each year from the intangibles tax. If the tax was eliminated as a result of a referendum, the city would have to raise property taxes by an estimated 4.2 mills to recover the lost revenue, he said. The tax rate the city can levy can not exceed 2.25 percent. This is the same rate previously provided by state law to the city. The rate the county can levy can not exceed.75 percent, making the combined levy three percent.

The commissioners also accepted the engineer's estimate of $66,715.25 for the curbing, guttering, and resurfacing of Sixth Street from Lincoln to Broadway. The project also includes the construction of new sidewalks in the one block area.

After accepting the engineer's estimate and holding a public hearing the commissioners passed a resolution authorizing the project. The only person attending the hearing was Charles Everitt, owner of Everitt Hardware. Everitt asked the city commissioners to consider not replacing the sidewalk in front of his business as it has been replaced when the street was widened in 1960. He said that the portion of the sidewalk where the parking meters has been was bad and needed to be replaced, but not the portion nearest his buildings.

Mayor Greg Hattan told Everitt that the decision would be made by the city engineer and that uniform grade would be the major consideration. Metzger said that he and Paul Johnson had inspected the sidewalks in the three block area and that no decision has been made on whether any of the sidewalks could be preserved.

The commissioners approved a lease agreement with the North Center Kansas Saddle Club for use of the Fairgrounds Park rodeo arena. It is a five year, automatically renewable lease.

A rate increase request of $1.25 per month by Cablecom General was tabled by the commissioners until June 2, 1982. Metzger said that he has requested additional information from Cablecom which should be in Concordia before the June 2 meeting.

5-21-82

# Concordia Swimming Pool Opens

**May 29 through Aug.23**

**plus week-end of Aug. 28 and 29 and Sept. 4-5-6**

Hours of operation:
1 to 8 during May, June and August
1 to 9 in July

Adult, anyone 18 or over—
Noon hour swim free this year.

Daily Admission Prices

| | |
|---|---|
| Child 5 to 12 | 50¢ |
| Junior-Sr., 13 to 17 | 75¢ |
| 18 and over | $1.00 |

Private party price is $25.00 per hour.

Season Ticket Prices

| | |
|---|---|
| Child through 17 years | $20.00 |
| Adult | $25.00 |
| Family | $45.00 |

**Pool Managers**
**Bob Ruzicka**
**Ted Krone**
**Phone 243-1150**

5-19-82

***Spring cleaning***

White water gushed from a city fire hydrant today as city crews began their seasonal flushing of the city's water system. Above, Director of Utilities David Wheaton took a water sample as city employee Rodney "Red" Yost released a valve on a hydrant. Approximately a quarter of the city's nearly 300 hydrants were involved in today's flushing operation. (Blade-Empire photo by Chris Black)

# City denies Cablecom rate request

6-3-82

The Concordia city commission yesterday rejected a $1.25 per month rate increase request made by Cablecom General for subscriber cable television in Concordia.

In making the motion to refuse the request Mayor Greg Hattan said the city would like to have more information from the company concerning its future plans. Hattan said the cable system in Concordia is 23 years old and that he has had numerous complaints that the signal received by Concordia viewers is not as good as it is in other communities.

Commissioner Ernest Girard said he did not favor the rate increase, noting that service has not improved since the change in ownership of the cable television company.

Commissioner Lee Doyen said that he thought the company was entitled to some increase because of the increase in operational costs, but he did not favor giving them a blanket increase.

City manager Carl Metzger told the commissioners before they voted on the increase that based on the information he had received from Cablecom it did not appear that a $1.25 per month rate increase was justifiable.

Metzger said that he and Capital Cities, the new franchise owner, have not been able to reach a consensus of opinion on what items should be considered in basic rate costs.

The city mangaer said that it was his opinion that the commissioners in entertaining a rate increase request should also consider such things as quality of service and the company's plans for future service. So far the only information provided by Cablecom has been information on the increase in operating expenses, he said.

Metzger said that the city is the only entity which is charged with regulating cable television rates. "We are trying to understand Cablecom's position and to determine what would be a reasonable rate of return for the cable television company to be able to continue attracting sufficient investors to maintain quality of service. What we are trying to do is find common ground to base a decision upon," he said.

In other business the commissioners approved an ordinance which annexes Blosser Municipal Airport and Airport Park into the city limits. Metzger said that for some reason the airport and park facility have never been incorporated into the city. The land in question is not contiguous to the city limits and can be brought into the city only by approval of the board of county commissioners or unless the land is owned by the city or if the land owner petitions for annexation, Metzger said.

Metzger said that by bringing the land into the city any question about enforcement of city ordinances or jurisdiction will be put to rest. In addition the city provides utilities and services to the area he said.

Metzger said that the city is studying other areas for annexation which currently receive benefits of city services and which would not receive fire protection if the need arises.

The commisisoners also passed a resolution authorizing the construction curbing and guttering on the west side of Republican from 18th Street to Peck Avenue. The cost of the project is estimated at $3,970.00 and will be totally paid by the two property owners in the benefit district.

The commissioners approved an ordinance updating a chapter in the city code which deals with classified positions and boards and commissions. Metzger said that the revisions will bring the code in line with the current organizational structure of the city.

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

# County levy sought for economic development

6-1-82

The City of Concordia this morning requested that the county commissioners levy one half of a mill to be used for economic development in Cloud County.

The city requested that the county join in the economic development push which was launched by the city this spring with the hiring of a full time director of economic development. The one-half mill levy would raise an estimated $27,520.

Glen Walker, the city's director of economic development, told the Cloud county commissioners that in a county as small as this one that it is essential that all resources be directed toward a common goal. "An economic development effort is of value to all residents of Cloud County and an additional jobs generated by new industry would be filled by residents from throughout the county and not just a single community," he said.

Walker said that an economic development levy is one of the few levies that can be profitable because it can create new or better job opportunities and can broaden the tax base in a rapid manner. He told the commissioners that currently, a $1,000,000 capital investment in Cloud County would generate an additional $3,845.00 for the county, $4,405.00 for the city and $6,170.00 for U.S.D. 333. Of the 95 new manufacturing plants announced in 1980 in the state of Kansas the average capital investment per plant was $2,500,000.00, he said.

Walker told the commissioners that more than one-half of the County funds, approximately $15,000, would be utilized in the marketing and advertising program for economic development in the county. He said that industrial development is one of the most competitive businesses with approximately 15,000 industrial groups trying to influence a very few plant location decisions. "A well-financed, competently executed marketing and advertising plan is essential," he said. "The results achieved in the use of these funds would be easily measurable by the number of industrial prospects generated with the money."

Walker said that up to $5,000.00 of the county funds would be earmarked for efforts to augment or assist economic efforts geared to the agri-business community since agri-business will continue to be the major economic entity of the county.

"The balance of the county levy, approximately $7,500.00, would go to offset some of the additional city expense and primarily to allow the city to commit additional funds to the marketing effort," Walker said. "A line item budget on the utilization of those funds would be submitted to the county commission for approval or negotiation."

Walker said to implement the levy the commissioners would need to issue a resolution to levy one-half of one mill for economic development for a period of three years. There would be a 30-day period for referendum petitions before adoption.

The county commission will select one of its members to serve as an ex-officio member of the City Industrial Development Advisory Commission. The city would bill the county monthly on the basis of expenditures and the county's agreed upon share of the three categories of expenditure. Any budgeted funds not utilized would be carried over as a cash item into the following a year. Use of these carry over funds would be negotiated between the city and county and would be a separate budget item to be utilized and accounted for accordingly, Walker said.

, JUNE 10, 1982 (USPS

KANSAN

# Parking Ordinance To Be Enforced

Concordia Police Chief Dennis Rohr reports that starting this weekend, the two-hour parking limit in the downtown shopping area will receive stricter enforcement. "So, if you don't want any of the $1 tickets, be sure to watch your time," he warns.

## FIREWORKS ORDINANCE

**No person, firm or corporation shall display or offer any fireworks for sale to any individual at retail without first obtaining a license. The license shall not grant the right to sell any of the types and kinds of fireworks which are prohibited from sale in Kansas by the State Fire Marshall.**

**It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, discharge or explode any fireworks except on July 3rd and July 4th, and further, that no fireworks of any kind may be set off at any time on the following streets and sidewalks: Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Streets, between Lincoln and State Streets, and Lincoln, Broadway, Washington and State Streets, between Fifth and Seventh Streets, nor at any time or place from a moving vehicle in the City.**

**For each place of business or stand where fireworks are sold, $10.00 per year is required. No license shall be issued after July 1 of each year. No license shall be issued until the place of business or stand has been approved by the Department of Public Safety. No business or stand shall be located between the sidewalk or curb or nearer than 20 feet from the curb line of the street.**

**No license shall be issued unless a person 18 years old or older will be present to supervise the sales. Licenses will provide for the sale of fireworks, between the hours of 6:00 o'clock a.m. and 12:00 o'clock midnight on July 3rd and 4th only. Each fireworks stand or business shall have a sufficient chemical or other type fire extinguisher present at all times.**

**Passed by the City Commission May 24,1978.** 6-14-82

KANSAN 6-10-82

Dr. James P. Ihrig

# Ihrig Next Chamber President; Elect Four New Directors

Dr. James P. Ihrig, president-elect of the Concordia Chamber of Commerce, has announced the election of four directors to the Chamber board. The results were announced at the monthly board meeting Wednesday morning.

The directors elected to serve three-year terms and their business association are: Eric Steffes, A. A. Wilson Furniture; Sister Elizabeth Stover, St. Joseph Hospital; Sharon Henderson, the Montgomery Ward Henderson Agency; and Mike Danielson, Alco Discount store.

Carry-over directors are Perry Bemis, Larry Lagasse, Jack Chaney, Bill Bryant, Dr. Ihrig, Ima Jean Chavey, Harley Adams, Connie Walenta, and Wendell Wilson. Executive Vice-President Leon Gennette serves as secretary for the board. The outgoing directirs are Cathaleen Uri, Dr. Hugh Hattan, and Mike Johnston.

The new and old board members, along with division chairmen and other members will meet for breakfast June 22 to get the 1982-83 membership drive underway. The new board of directors will meet Wednesday, June 30, at 7 a.m. to elect officers, approve programs, budgets and contracts for the new year beginning July 1.

6-3-82 KANSAN

# Cable TV Rate Increase Denied by Commission

Concordia City Commissioners Wednesday denied a $1.25 per month basic cable TV increase requested recently by Cablecom General, Inc. The proposal was to increase the basic monthly rate from $8.20 to $9.45 per month.

The rate increase was tabled at the May 19 commission meeting pending further information and study by City Manager Carl Metzger. The city manager reported yesterday the company had submitted financial data to substantiate the increase but he believed the company information did not show the total request is needed. Thus, the entire request was denied.

However, the door was left open for further negotiations by the cable firm and the city. The city manager advised the city may reconsider a lesser increase to cover increased business expenses by Cablecom General, or an increase could be reconsidered if future plans of the company showed an effort to improve service. Improvements, he pointed out could be rebuilding the 23-year old system, improving quality of reception, increasing services or channels.

It was pointed out the cable company asked twice in the past two years to have the local cable TV released from regulation. The city manager pointed out the city commission is the only means of control of the franchised business and the body rejected this idea both times. The city nor any other agency controls the pay-TV (HBO and Movie channel) as no authority is granted to local or federal government agencies regarding rates.

Metzger concluded that he could not at this time recommend the $1.25 increase based on the information furnished thus far. He said Cablecom will need to come up with something reasonable before he can recommend an increase.

Other business before the city commission Wednesday was routine.

The commission approved a street improvement for the west side of Republican Street between 18th and Peck Ave. The work including grading, curbing and guttering adjacent to Lots 1 and 23, Block 2, College Heights Addition is estimated to cost $3,970 with the entire amount paid by the property owners in the benefit district — David Retter and Edgar Arpin. A resolution approved by the commission authorized and ordered the improvement.

The commission took official action annexing the Blosser Municipal Airport and Airport Park just south of town. City Manager Metzger said the city owned and operated facilities had never been annexed even though the city had owned it for more than 40 years. Commissioner Lee Doyen expressed the belief that the city was prohibited from annexing land unless it was adjacent to the city limits until the state laws were changed several years ago. Metzger agreed that annexation laws had been updated in recent years. The airport and adjacent park are noncontiguous with the city limits.

Mayor Greg Hattan advised the city commission is also considering annexation of other land to the city.

The commission also updated a current city ordinance governing or setting out the various administerative jobs and city staff positions. Also corrected were city boards and commissions. The changes included eliminating job positions, boards and commissions that no longer exist and adding those that are relative new and had not been included in the city code.

Mrs. Lee Sanders, a summer law intern in the office of City Attorney David Retter, was a visitor at the commission meeting.

KANSAN 6-11-82

# Lee Doyen Elected President Of National Teachers Group

Lee W. Doyen

Lee W. Doyen, director of the Cloud County Community College agri-business program and coordinator of the vocational program, was elected president of the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture at the 28th annual conference held on the Delaware Valley campus, Doylestown, Pa., June 13-16. The theme of the conference was "Education in Agriculture—Feeding Minds to Feed the World."

Doyen has served as vice-president this past year and gave a luncheon speech entitled "NACTA For the 80's," on Tuesday, June 16. He received the "Teacher Fellow" award in 1979 and "Enminger-Interstate Distinguished Teacher" award in 1981.

NACTA membership is made up of agriculture teachers from four-year colleges and universities, community colleges and technical schools from the United States, Canada, Hawaii and Alaska. The organization strives to improve teaching in the classroom.

The 1983 conference will be held on the Kansas State University campus [illegible] of June. The 1983 theme will be "Improving the Learning Climate in Agriculture."

Those attending the conference from Cloud County Community College were Tony and Arlene Harris, Gordon and May Morrison, Larry and Verda Greene, and Lee and Peggy Doyen.

6-14-82

***Flag Day observed***

**City crews raised flags in Concordia's downtown business district this morning to commemorate Flag Day, June 14. The job was accomplished without the use of a ladder as one crewman gave the other a boost up the pole.**

KANSAN

# Commissioners Grant Cablecom Rate Hike

6-17-82

Concordia cable television subscribers will be getting a $1.00 per month rate increase beginning with the September billing according to action taken Wednesday afternoon during a meeting of the Concordia city commission.

Mayor Greg Hattan explained the commission rejected a $1.25 per month increase at the June 3 meeting. Since that time City Manager Carl Metzger had been negotiating with Tom Lacey of the Denver office of Cablecom General which is owned by Capitol Cities Cable of Delaware, Inc. Metzger had recommended the $1.00 increase at a June 9 study session with 40c per month to cover increased operational costs of the company. Another 60c per month, effective on July 1, for improvements to the system. The 60c is granted for one year and can be continued if commissioners feel the cable company has made promised improvements.

Listed improvements, according to Gail Engle, local Cablecom manager, include 14 new trunk (main) line amplifiers at a cost of about $11,000 which are on order; addition of three FM radio stations (rock, country and gospel music stations); and gradual replacement of drop cables (the service lines to subscribers).

Mayor Hattan expained the 40c permanent increase for increased operating expenses is about a 5% increase or 2½% a year since the last increase two years ago. The current rate is $8.20 and will go to $9.20 beginning Sept. 1.

### Other Business

The commission also took up other routine business.

The commission approved the purchase of a 1982 ½-ton Chevrolet pickup truck from Babe Houser Motor Co. based on their low bid of $5,915. Kling Motor Co. submitted a bid of $6,075 for a ½-ton Ford pickup. The prices included a trade-in of a 1977 GMC pickup. The truck is for the street department.

A cereal malt beverage license (beer) and beer garden license were approved for the Concordia Jaycees and taken out in the name of Keith Christensen, club president. The Jaycees plan to operate a beer garden during the United Way Fun Day at the Fairgrounds Park July 10. The club had the same activity at the first Fun Day a year ago.

The commission approved a resolution determining a nuisance exists at 323 E. 12th at a residence occupied by Terry Eaton. Police Chief Dennis Rohr said he investigated the complaint an found old vehicles and other debris on the property. The occupier of the property will have ten days to abate the nuisance, afterwhich the city has the power to have the items cleared at the property owner's expense.

Mike Johnston was re-appointed to a three-year term on the Concordia Planning Commission.

Commissioner Lee Doyen and City Manager Metzger were out of town and absent from the meeting Wednesday.

Mike Schneider, a student at Cloud County Community College, was a visitor at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned to a study session next Thursday at 12:15 p.m.

# Commission OKs Cablecom rate hike

6-1782

The Concordia city commissioners yesterday approved a rate increase which amounts to $1 per month on the basic rate charged by Cablecom General for cable television service in Concordia.

The current basic charge for cable television service in Concordia is $8.20 per month and will be increased to $9.20 per month effective Sept. 1. Cablecom had requested a rate increase of $1.25 per month.

Under the rate proposal approved by the commissioners a 40 cent per month increase is being allowed for increased operational expenses and a 60 cent per month rate increase is being allowed for capital improvements to the system.

The 60 cent increase earmarked for capital improvements will automatically terminate on July 1, 1983, if Cablecom has not implemented certain system improvements to the satisfaction of the city commission.

System improvements being proposed by Cablecom include the addition of several FM radio channels, the installation of 12 amplifiers on the main trunk lines which should improve the signal stability and picture quality, and the replacement of worn or defective house drop lines.

Cablecom system manager Gail Engle said that the amplifiers will be installed over a period of several months and that the house drops will be replaced when time allows. He said the additional FM stations would be on the air as soon as two antennaes are installed on the Cablecom tower west of Concordia.

The commissioners accepted the low bid of Babe Houser Motor Co. for a new 1982 pickup truck for the street department Houser's low bid with trade in allowance was $5,915.00. The other bid received was from Kling Motor Co. and was $6,075.00.

The commissioners reappointed Mike Johnston to a second three-year term on the city planning commission.

General malt beverage and beer garden licenses were approved for the Concordia Jaycees for the weekend of July 10. The Jaycees plan to operate a beer at the Fairground Park during the United Way Fun Days activities on that date.

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

# Discuss Funding Proposal

6-2482 KANSHN

Before funds can be appropriated for industrial development a formal economic plan is needed, the Board of Cloud County Commissioners found out during the business meeting Monday. County Attorney C. L. Laman advised the board that Kansas statutes require a plan and he further explained the procedure whereby the county could appropriate existing funds or levy a tax for industrial development.

Glen Walker, city of Concordia director of industrial development, met with the county board again Monday to renew his request for approximately $14,000 yearly for a three year period. The money would be added to the financial commitment the city made prior to hiring Walker this spring and the funds would be used to benefit both the city and county, Walker told the commission in earlier meetings.

Commission Chairman Jack Paulsen has proposed the funding come out of existing federal revenue sharing funds, eliminating an increase in taxes.

The county commission asked Walker and the county attorney to work on an appropriate plan for the county. Once a plan is developed the county may then contract with the Concordia Industrial Development Commission, a governmental group, to carry out the plan.

A group of industrial development promoters also was present to back Walker's proposal.

# Swim-a-thon raises money for United Way

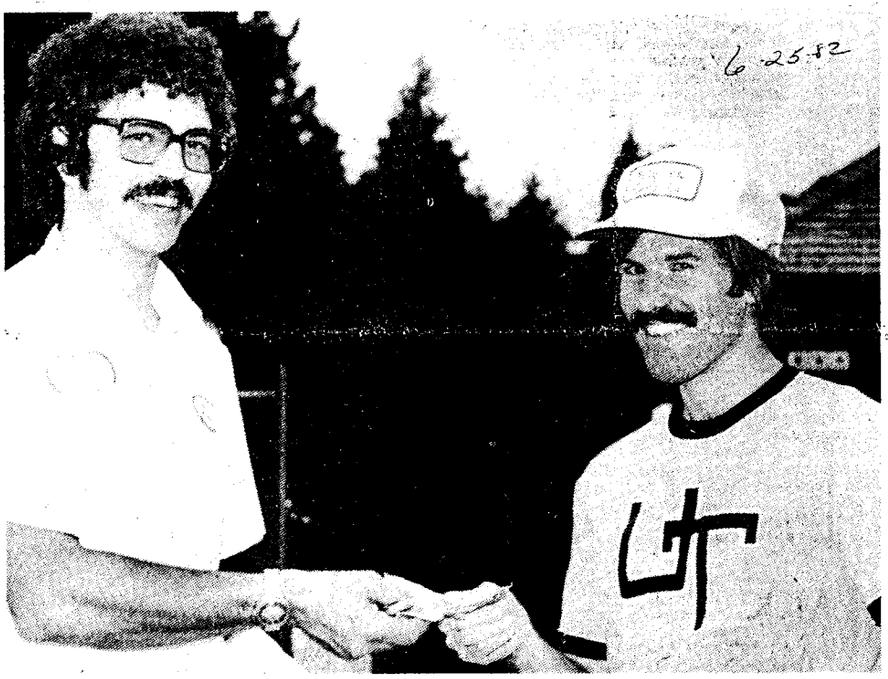
Participants in the local United Way Swim-a-thon took to the water Thursday evening to kick off the local annual charity fund drive.

After having been twice postponed, the event drew only six swimmer-participants whom it is hoped will raise nearly $1,000 for the Concordia-Cloud County United Way. The swimmers had registered sponsors who pledged donation for each lap swam. For some of the swimmers those donations showed promise of adding up to sizeable sums.

Two young swimmers Michelle Cripe and Jennifer Floyd both swam more than a mile, as Michelle swam 35 laps and Jennifer accumulated 33. Thirty-two laps equal a mile. Other swimmers included Concordia Mayor Greg Hattan (who swam 20 laps to collect from an estimated 60 sponsors who had pledged five cents a lap for a maximum of 20 laps), Beci Slavin, Sue Duis and Jolene Leigh.

The particpants will now begin collecting their pledges before a final tally of the evening's proceeds are announced.

6-2582



***Mayor collects for cause***

Among the participants in Thursday evening's United Way Swim-a-thon was Mayor Greg Hattan, right who completed 20 laps and then collected a pledge from United Way vice president Dan Slavin, left.

# City residents to pay higher landfill fees 6-29-82

City residents will see a slight rise in their water and sewer bills next year because of action taken Monday by the Cloud County Board of Commissioners.

The commissioners voted to raise the county landfill maintenance charge assessed to city residents on their water bills from the 75 cents per month which is currently charged, to $1 a month next year. The change was made to help keep pace with the rising costs of maintaining the landfill. The commission action taken Monday will affect the bills of residents living in Concordia, Jamestown, Glasco, Clyde, Aurora, and Miltonvale. Fees for rural residents and businesses, which are also currently set at 75 cents a month, will be discussed by the commissioners at a later date.

In other action Monday, the commission took another step closer to setting aside county funding for industrial and economic development, but again stopped short of making a firm commitment on funding. The commission met with Industrial Advisory Commission Director Glen Walker to review a proposed resolution creating an economic development plan for the county. The resolution, drawn up by Walker and Cloud County Attorney C.L. Laman outlines guidelines for establishing a County Economic Development Advisory Committee to assist in developing a comprehensive plan and to advise the commission and other agencies within the county on matters of economic or industrial development.

Adoption of the resolution establishing the county's economic plan is a prerequisite to the commission's funding of an industrial or economic development program. It has been proposed that the county contribute approximately $14,000 to be used by the already established Concordia Industrial Development Commission in promoting economic development in Cloud County. The matter was scheduled for further discussion at the board's next meeting, Tuesday, July 6, at 10 a.m.

In other business Monday, the commissioners continued with preparation for establishing the county's 1983 budget by discussing budget matters with department heads and representatives of agencies receiving county funding. The discussion included a request from County Appraiser Bob Jager for additional funds for aerial photographic maps, and a request from Denny Clark, Marvin Dunlap and Don McCullough of the Pawnee Mental Health Center that the county raise its mental health mill levy fron one-half to three-quarters of a mill.

The commission also met with representatives of the Area Commission on Aging and appointed Mrs. Regina Menard, Clyde, Leon Amberg, Glasco, Lawrence LeSage, Leota Ruder, Edgar Arpin, and William Johnson, all of Concordia, and Harold Comfort, Miltonvale, to three-year terms on the Cloud County Commission on Aging. Menard and Amberg are serving their second term. The rest are first term members of the Commission. The commissioners also appointed Nile Barnum as clerk of Summit Township.

# Low-lying areas flooded by rain 7-1-82

More than three inches of rain fell in Concordia Wednesday evening causing flooding in some low-lying areas. The threat of flooding around 19th and Broadway north of an area behind Blosser Dam, led city officials to declare an emergency and begin placing sandbags around several homes and a trailer park in the area.

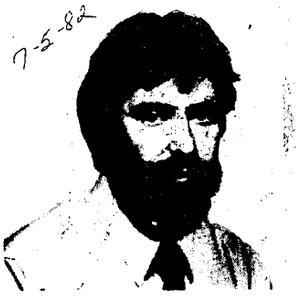
Cloud County Civil Defense volunteers, city employees and neighborhood residents worked feverishly in a steady rain to fill sandbags and place them behind three homes in the 100 Block of W. 19th as water from a retaining lake below Blosser Dam crept within 12 feet of the houses. A fire truck nearby pumped water to divert it from the swollen lake.

Approximately 50 volunteers, most of the neighborhood residents joined city employees and civil defense workers about 11 p.m. filling sandbags and placing them behind the James Winter, Wilfred Hamel, and Tom Brosius homes in a low lying area along the side of the 100 Block of W. 19th. Flood waters from the retaining lake filled the back yards of the homes threatening the houses if water were to spill over the dam or if the rain were to intensify.

Sandbags were also loaded onto pickup and taken to the J and J Trailer Park in the 100 Block of E. 18th where water up to three feet deep ran through some areas of the trailer court.

Still, actual damage to property was reported to be light. Gardens and yards appeared to bear the brunt of the flooding. The water in both areas had receded this morning and there appeared to be no further threat of flooding.

The heavy rains which fell in the area once again brought the 1982 wheat harvest to an abrupt standstill and the few area farmers who had managed to get into their fields on Tuesday and Wednesday were once again left waiting for the sun to shine.



7-5-82

Dr. Patrick Wolf

## Dr. Patrick Wolf to begin practice in Concordia

Dr. Patrick Wolf, a physician who recently completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita will be joining the Concordia Medical Group on July 12.

Wolf, a graduate of Kansas Newman College in Wichita prior to beginning medical school, is a Wichita native. He is a 1977 graduate of the University of Kansas School of Mec Medicine and completed an internship in pathology at St. Joseph Medical Center in Wichita and his residency in internal medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine's Wichita branch. He is a member of the American Medical Association, Kansas Medical Society, Sedgwick County Medical Society, and an associate member of the American College of Physicians.

Wolf is married, and he and his wife, Joy, will live at 1413 Country Club Drive in Concordia.

Dr. Craig L. Weatherhead

## New chiropractor joins Dr. Blackwood 7-5-82

Dr. D.J. Blackwood today announced the addition of Dr. Craig L. Weatherhead, D.C., to his staff in Concordia.

Dr. Weatherhead graduated with honors during June commencement exercises of Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa.

Dr. Weatherhead, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Weatherhead of rural Concordia, was graduated from the Belleville High School, and the Cloud County Community College with an Associate of Arts degree.

While at Palmer College, he completed the course of study in Applied Kinsesiology.

Weatherhead is married to the former Karla Blackwood and they are parents of one son, Travis. They will make their home in Clyde.

# City Updates Drunk Driving Ordinance

Concordia city commissioners took action Wednesday afternoon to bring the city ordinance in line with the new stricter state law dealing with persons convicted of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The new DWI ordinance was approved during the commission's regular meeting yesterday.

The new city law is even more stringent in some areas than the new state law. The state requires a two-day jail sentence upon conviction of DWI while the city requires a three-day sentence. However, under certain conditions, a person may spend 100 hours or public service. The fine will be $100.

City Manager Carl Metzger said the city will attempt to find public service jobs that persons may do if they are allowed this alternate by the court. No plea bargaining agreements can be entered into nor shall any judge approve a plea bargaining agreement.

Upon a second conviction for DWI, a minimum 90-day jail sentence and $500 fine are imposed. Maximum penalties are one year in jail and a $1,000 fine. Driver's license suspensions are also included in the new ordinance.

Police Chief Dennis Rohr was in attendance at the meeting yesterday and supported the new stricter law. He indicated city police have cracked down on drunk drivers, resulting in more arrests the first six months than are usually made in 12 months.

Also updated was the city ordinance pertaining to transportation of liquor and beer in open containers. The change also brings this city law in compliance with state law.

Commissioner Ernest Girard was selected by the other two commissioners to represent the commission on the city's Alcoholism Advisory Committee. Mayor Greg Hattan advised that the committee, also composed of the city manager and Chief of Police Dennis Rohr, will meet to consider requests for funds in the city's allocation from the state. The funds include only those on hand as a new state law does not allocate funds to towns under 10,000 population. In the future the liquor tax money will go to the county for allocation to such uses as drug education and rehabilitation. Requesting funds from the city are the Community Resources Council Chemical Dependency Committee, and USD 333. A recommendation will be presented to the city commission.

### Other Business

BG Construction was awarded the improvement project of new curb and guttering on the west side of Republican from 18th to Peck Avenue. Their bid was $1,896 and the engineer's estimate was $2,315. Goff Construction's bid—the only other bidder—was just under the engineer's estimate.

City Manager Metzger advised the commission the new water well at 3rd and Broadway has been completed and the final cost is $50,575.64. This is below the engineer's total estimate of $52,100. The new well is delivering 350 gallons per minute which exceeds the original expectations, Metzger said.

The commission approved the re-submission of a pre-application seeking funds to enlarge and improve the Blosser Municipal Airport. The FAA Airport Development Aid Program has terminated all previous applications and if funds are still requested a new updated request must be made. Bucher and Willis Consulting Engineers of Salina will prepare the updated information at no cost to the city, reported the city manager.

Bucher and Willis was also authorized to submit an application to the Kansas Department of Transportation for a grant to fund a traffic safety study in the city. The KDOT has budgeted funds in it's 1983 fiscal year (Oct. 1982-Sept. 1983) for such studies. If a grant is approved Bucher and Willis will conduct the survey. If no grant is approved, no study will be made, said City Manager Metzger.

A cereal malt beverage (beer) license was approved for Larry Letourneau, doing business as Larry's Food Store at 307 W. 6th. Letourneau is negotiating the purchase of the store now known as 3M IGA. An announcement about the change in ownership is expected in the near future.

# City toughens DWI ordinances

The Concordia city commission yesterday approved two ordinances which brought the city code in conformity with legislation dealing with driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs and the transportation of liquor and cereal malt beverages in open containers.

City manager Carl Metzger explained that the 1982 legislature made substantial changes in the state laws dealing with these subjects which basically increased the fines and lengthened the jail sentences.

Under the provisions of the new ordinance passed dealing with DWIs a person found guilty of a first conviction will receive a minimum jail sentence of three days or 100 hours of public service and a minimum fine of $100. Maximum penalties on first conviction are six months in jail and a $500.00 fine. In addition the court is required to restrict the convicted person's driver's license for from 90 days to one year and require the person to enroll in and complete either an alcohol and drug safety action program or a treament program.

Metzger said that under the provisions of the new ordinance no plea bargaining agreements will be entered nor shall any judge approve a plea bargaining agreement entered into for the purpose of permitting a person to avoid the mandatory penalty as established in the ordinance.

The city manager said that penalties under the new ordinance increase with each subsequent conviction.

The ordinance dealing with driving with an open container impowers the city with the authority to restrict or suspend the license of the person convicted of the offense. This change brings the city code in conformity with current state law.

In other business the commissioners authorized the resubmission of a pre-application to the FFA for federal assistance for airport improvements under the Airport Development Aid program.

Metzger told the coimmissioners that an application submitted in 1981 has been returned and the city has been advised to submit a new application. He said that Bucker and Willis, the consulting firm which prepared the application, has agreed to update and revise the grant application at no cost to the city.

The city manager said that at this time there is no pending legislation authorizing an airport aid program, but there are indications that a limited program may be approved. He said under these circumstances, it is apparent that only the higher priority projects will be considered for funding. "This makes prompt resubmission of this application all the more important. It is also unknown what percentage of federal participation will be in the legislation as there are several bills in Congress with various amounts of federal shares," he said.

Metzger pointed out that the program is funded by user fees and that metropolitan areas have been attempting to get the funds appropriated for mass transit systems.

The commissioners also authorized the preparation of an application to the Kansas Department of Transportation for funds to be used for a traffic study in Concordia. Metzger said the study would identify changes which should be made in existing traffic signs and traffic signals which would result in safer streets.

Metzger told the commissioners that the firm of Bucker and Willis will prepare the application at no cost to the city.

The commissioners designated commissioner Ernest Girard as its representative on the Alcoholism Advisory Committee. Two proposals have been received for funding, one from the Community Resources Council and Chemical Dependency Committee and one from Unified School District 333.

Mayor Greg Hattan said that the state law was changed in the 1982 session of the legislature eliminating the transfer of liquor tax funds to cities under 10,000. He said liquor taxes collected for those communities will be sent to county government. He added that there are some funds left over which the advisory committee needs to allocate.

The commissioners awarded a curbing and guttering project on Republican Street to Peck Avenue to BG Construction Co. BG's low bid was $1,896.00. Goff Construction bid $2,300.00 on the project. Cost of the project will be paid 100 percent by the property owners in the benefit district.

The final costs of the Broadway water well project were approved by the commissioners. The final cost of the project was $50,575.64, which was below the engineer's estimate of $52,106.00.

A cereal malt beverage license was approved for Larry Letourneau, doing business as Larry's Food Store.

***Ownership change***

**A change in the ownership of 3M IGA was announced this morning by present store owner Donna Minard (left). The store has been sold to Larry (right) and Margaret Letourneau. The store will close for inventory Saturday evening, be closed Sunday and open as Larry's Food Store Monday morning. (Blade photo by Chris Black).**

Blade Weekly 7-20-82

# Letourneaus buy local grocery store

3M IGA food store has been sold to Larry and Margaret Letourneau, according to an announcement made today by Donna Minard.

Mrs. Minard said that the store would close Saturday evening at 7 o'clock and would remain closed Sunday for inventory. The store will open Monday as Larry's Food Store.

Mrs. Minard and her late husband Max operated the IGA store for nearly seven years.

Letourneau has been in the grocery business since 1954 when he began working as a carryout boy for Boogaarts in Concordia.

In 1958 he was transferred to Mankato as assistant manager. From there he went to Beloit as an assistant manager and then back to Mankato as manager. A few years later he was transferred to Abilene as manager of a new store there.

In 1966 he was promoted to the home office in Concordia as a retail store supervisor. He remained in that position until a few months ago.

Letourneau was reared and educated in Aurora and is married to the former Margaret Fulmer of Concordia. They have three grown sons.

Letourneau said that he is looking forward to putting his years of grocery experience to work in his own store. "I've done about everything conceivable possible in the grocery business, but own my own store," he said. "I am looking forward to this new challenge and I know it will be hard work as well as enjoyable."

"We plan to be very active and involved in the business community of Concordia," he said. "We will do anything within our power to increase business and trade in this community, because we realize the importance of everyone in the community pitching in to make the community grow and prosper," Letourneau said.

Letourneau said he plans no immediate major changes in the operation of the store. "However, over a period of time we will be remodeling and re-merchandising the store," he said. He added that a grand opening will be held at a future date.

Mrs. Minard said that she wished to thank all of the people who patronized the store during the years that she and her late husband Max operated the st

KANSAN 7-22-82

# City Commissioners Hold Routine Meeting

The Concordia city commission met Wednesday afternoon conducting routine business including a petition for a new alley, annexation of a small parcel of land, approved recommendations from the planning commission, and bids for financing temporary notes.

The alley improvement, requested by residents of Block 47, the block near 16th and Cedar where the Wesleyan Church is located. The work includes grading, drainage and surfacing of the alley at an estimated cost of $9,350. The cost will be assessed totally to the property owners.

Annexed were land owned by Unified School District 333 and J. Bradley Lowell. The action was requested by petition and is located near the extreme west end of West 18th Street. The school land is used as a practice field and is a possible site for a new school but currently has no improvements on it. The Lowell property consists of a small strip used as a driveway.

Mayor Greg Hattan said this is the first of several planned annexations of land adjacent to the city limits. He added that due to budget matters now under consideration, it will probably be September before more annexations are made.

An amendment to the city's zoning ordinance was approved as recommended by the Concordia Planning Commission. It rezoned Lots 17 and 18 in Block 194, Hagaman's Subdivision and Lots 1-4, Block 3, Interstate Subdivision from M-H (Mobile Home) district to I-2 (Heavy Industrial). The lots are adjacent to the county shops near 1st and Cedar and the city manager explained the shops are now I-2 and the change allows the advantage of having the same I-2 district in the entire block. The change was requested by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Tatro to allow them to establish a service-type business, although the business is considered heavy industrial according to city zoning codes.

The city staff and planning group concurred with the change because the rezoning will eliminate an area of non-conforming uses.

No one appeared to object to the change.

The commission also approved the vacation of Russ Street between East 9th and the alley in Block 1 of Erickson's Subdivision as requested by Elden Budreau. The street is only one block long and originally platted by Budreau when he opened the Budreau Subdivision in 1978, reported City Manager Carl Metzger. He also advised the street contained no utilities and had no outlet at one end. The vacation was recommended by the Concordia Planning Commission.

Each Concordia bank was awarded temporary notes.

The first went to Cloud County Bank and Trust which bid 9.25% on $34,586 in temporary notes to finance water well repairs and test hole drilling done during the past year. The repair work was on old wells and not the two new ones which are separate projects. Also bidding on this temporary note was First Bank and Trust with a rate of 9.52%.

First Bank and Trust was the sole bidder on temporary notes to finance the new Joler Park water well. Their bid was 9.52% on $71,855.

City Manager Metzger reported the city had earned $16,197.79 in interest from invested idle funds from April 1 to June 30. Earnings totaling $27,505.35 had been realized thus far this year, an increase of 19% over the same six months in 1981, he said.

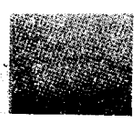
The city manager advised the hearing on the proposed 1983 city budget is tentatively set for Aug. 11. The commission adjourned the meeting to July 29, at 12:15 p.m. to consider the Recreation Commission budget.

5-27-82

**According to Sec. 24-3 of the Concordia Code, all hedges or shrubs shall be trimmed to be no higher than 4' and shall not obstruct the view of on-coming traffic at any intersection.**

**Failure to comply with this section of the Concordia Code will result in City Crews cutting and trimming the hedges or shrubs with the costs being assessed against the owner or person in control of said hedges or shrubs.**

**Verna Scott** 1



# City proposes decrease in 1983 mill levy

7-30-82

The Concordia city commission has approved for publication today a proposed budget for 1983 which would lower the mill levy by 1.47 mills.

The levy required by the budget to finance a proposed budget of $2,384,535 for 1983 is projected to be 35.24 mills. The levy will raise $586,429 of the proposed budget as compared to last year when the mill levy raised $611,413.

The budget expenditures for 1983 will fund the current level of services, according to a budget message prepared by city manager Carl Metzger. Metzger said that the proposed budget including utility funds is $2,448,535 which is an increase of 2.7 percent over the 1982 budget expenditures of $2,384,682. The services supported by taxes, fees and charges is $1,020,440, an increase of 15 percent over the 1982 budget, while the services supported by user fees, the water and sewer operating funds, is $589,030, which is a decrease of 11 percent from the 1982 level.

Metzger pointed out that the tangible assessed valuation for the city decreased in 1982 from $16,657,000 to $16.642.928 which results in a negligible impact on the budgetary process of .001 percent. However, Metzger said, that if the tax base continues to shrink, the amount of tax revenue a mill raises will decrease requiring a corresponding increase in the levy rate. "This trend of 'zero growth' in the tax base could present a significant problem to the city in all funds in the future," he said.

The city manager said that this problem should not become an immediate concern unless the intangibles tax is eliminated as a result of a referendum. "Without an alternate revenue source to make up the loss, property taxes would have to be increased to fund future budgets," he explained. "Based on current intangibles tax revenue the increase in the mill levy rate would be about six mills," he said.

Metzger said that the property tax reduction proposed for 1983 is the second decrease in the tax rate in two years. "Last year the mill levy rate was lowered by .95 mills. The total property tax requirement has been lowered in the same period of time $40,798 or 2.42 mills. The property tax relief is possible because the one half of one percent sales tax revenue to be collected in 1982 will exceed current budget estimates. This property tax reduction is significant because a satisfactory level of city service can be maintained in 1983 with less revenue from the property taxpayer. Future tax rate reductions will depend on continued growth in the sales tax," he said.

Metzger said that the original sales tax revenue estimate for the current budget year was $120,000. "That estimate has been revised based on six months actual revenue and increased by $40,000 to an annual figure of $160,000. Approximately $25,000 of this additional revenue is going to property tax relief in 1983, while the balance is appropriated to pay the increased cost of salaries and fringe benefits," he said.

The city manager said that the 1983 budget projects sales tax revenue totaling $188,000, an increase of 18 percent over the 1983 estimate. "The additional $28,400 is being placed in a reserve account for emergency expenditures and special projects," he explained. "The balance of the sales tax revenue is going directly to programs in the General Fund. Reserve funds established as part of the current budget will be continued in 1983 with the $24,000 scheduled for transfer to special accounts for fire, ambulance and street equipment," he said.

The proposed budget for the water and sewer utility decreases expenditures $75,417 from $662,447 in fiscal 1982 to $587,030 in the fiscal 1983, Metzger said. "The decrease is because of reduced revenue projections," Metzger said. "The level of expenditures proposed for next year are below that budgeted in 1980," he said.

Metzger said that unusually wet weather conditions resulting in significantly lower than average usage may require stepping up the planned end-of-the-year water rate increase for implementation in August or September.

"For the first six months of 1982 water consumption is down 23,400,000 gallons or 16 percent below usage for the same period last year," Metzger said. "Revised expenditure estimates for the current year have been reduced $90,206.00 or 14 percent. Further cuts in expenditures will impair water department staff in the performance of routine maintenance and repair activity."

"The cash position of the utility may be jeopardized unless action is taken to adjust rates to make up for revenue not generated because of greatly reduced usage. Considering the various factors that have converged to create this problem: weather; inflation, population loss, and conservation; the solution is not an easy one nor is it unique to Concordia. Water utilities throughout the state are struggling to cope with these same issues. The resources available are to trim expenditures, which has been done, and increase revenue, which can only be accomplished through rate increased rates.

Consequently, Metzger will make recommendations to the commission in early August that the planned 21 percent rate increase be accelerated. The 21 percent rate hike in water rates was originally planned for January of 1983 and is the third in a four-step water rate adjustment adopted by the city commission in 1980.

Metger pointed out that the intelligent use of the city's borrowing capacity is the most satisfactory way to provide needed public improvements such as streets and sewers, equipment and public buildings.

The statutory debt limit or the amount of debt the city may not exceed is 25 percent of the city's assessed valuation. Concordia's bond debt limit on current valuation is $4,160,732, while the actual debt is only slightly more than 5.1 percent of the city's allowable debt limit. This, according to Metzger, is a great help in securing attractive interest rates for future bonds. He also pointed out that the city's bond indebtness decreased by .8 percent in 1982-83.

Metzger said that personnel costs including wages, fringe benefits and health insurance are projected to increase 5.1 percent in 1983. "The total additional cost to fund all increases next year is $48,203.00," he said. "The total cost of all personal services will be $989,902. Personnel related costs amount to 42 percent of the entire city budget in 1983. The city staff will be maintained at current levels in 1983 with no additional personnel authorized for either tax supported or non-tax supported funds," he said.

Metzger said that the city has shown an ability to respond to the public's desire for effective, sound handling of its resources. "This fact is mirrored in the reduced mill levy for the second year in a row, a level of expenditures exceeding the current budget year projections by only 2.7 percent," he said. "City government will continue to look for new ways to contain the cost of municipal operations, provide needed services at a reasonable cost, and work to maintain a high quality of life in Concordia.

"I am confident that the Concordia city structure will emerge from this adjustment as a leaner, but more resilent and efficient organization. This city remains financially strong and responsible and we intend to keep it that way. We better understand the tax burden our residents are willing to shoulder, and we must assure ourselves that the services supplied are those most needed by the residents of Concordia and that these services are provided in the most efficient and economical manner," he said.

# Changes made in local polling places

7-30-82

The polling places for a substantial number of Cloud county residents have been changed from where they have been in previous elections, so voters are encouraged to note the changes before they go to the polls on Tuesday.

One of the biggest changes in polling places will affect nearly one-half the voters in the City of Concordia. All of the voters in Concordia's Third and Fourth Wards will be voting at the Lutheran Church, 8th and Olive, instead of at the Catholic Religious Education Center. Voters are asked to use the Eighth Street entrance to the church.

Another change in polling places will have voters in Buffalo, East and West Lincoln, Center and Sibley townships voting at the American Legion Hall, 503 Washington, in Concordia. These townships in the immediate vicinity of Second ward will cast their ballots as usual at the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall, 11th and Highland Drive.

Polling places will also be open at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Aurora for voters in Aurora City, and Aurora and Colfax townships; at the Clyde City Hall for voters in Clyde City, and Elk township; at the Glasco City Hall for voters in Glasco, and Lyon, Solomon and West Meredith townships; at the Jamestown City Hall for voters in Jamestown, and Grant and Summit townships; at the Miltonvale City Hall for Miltonvale, and Oakland, East Meredith and Starr townships; at the Hollis Schoolhouse for North Lawrence township, at the Nelson Community Center for South Lawrence and Nelson townships; at the Silver Arrow Schoolhouse for Arion township, and at

# Local crime up slightly in July 1982

8-3-82

A surge in the number of vandalism cases reported to Concordia police last month accounted for an overall increase in local crime during July '82, Concordia Chief of Police Dennis Rohr reports.

In his monthly crime report, Rohr reported that the 12 misdemeanor and seven felony vandalism cases reported in July 1982 was a dramatic increase from the five misdemeanor and three felony vandalism cases reported in July 1981. The increase in vandalism more than accounted for the increases in overall crimes reported which jumped from 30 in July 1981 to 35 in July 1982.

The number of reported burglaries and felony thefts remained unchanged with two burglaries and four felony thefts investigated during each of the reporting periods.

Misdemeanor thefts actually decreased from 16 in July 1981 to 10

prepared by city manager Carl Metzger. Metzger said that the proposed budget including utility funds is $2,448,535 which is an increase of 2.7 percent over the 1982 budget expenditures of $2,384,682. The services supported by taxes, fees and charges is $1,020,440, an increase of 15 percent over the 1982 budget, while the services supported by user fees, the water and sewer operating funds, is $589,030, which is a decrease of 11 percent from the 1982 level.

Metzger pointed out that the tangible assessed valuation for the city decreased in 1982 from $16,657,000 to $16,642,928 which results in a negligible impact on the budgetary process of .001 percent. However, Metzger said, that if the tax base continues to shrink, the amount of tax revenue a mill raises will decrease requiring a corresponding gibles tax revenue the increase in the mill levy rate would be about six mills," he said.

Metzger said that the property tax reduction proposed for 1983 is the second decrease in the tax rate in two years. "Last year the mill levy rate was lowered by .95 mills. The total property tax requirement has been lowered in the same period of time $40,798 or 2.42 mills. The property tax relief is possible because the one half of one percent sales tax revenue to be collected in 1982 will exceed current budget estimates. This property tax reduction is significant because a satisfactory level of city service can be maintained in 1983 with less revenue from the property taxpayer. Future tax rate reductions will depend on continued growth in the sales tax," he said.

Metzger said that the original sales

A revised report showing even larger deficits and weaker economic growth might prove too discouraging to Congress at a time when it is struggling with politically painful choices for cutting spending and raising taxes, they said.

For fiscal 1982, which ends Sept. 30, the report shows the deficit exceeding $100 billion for the first time. In the following year, the red-ink will grow to

slower growth forecast by the gessional Budget Office is "probab the ballpark."

"We're going to see a recovery it's going to be so dependent on inte rates," Baldrige said. "The way terest rates are now, that cur (CBO) estimate is probably reason unless interest rates take off more most people expect in the immediat ture."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

At a time when New Federalism will be placing more responsibility at our

I wish to call attention to the fact Representative Pat Roberts on Jul 1981, cast a vote for tax-funded abo when he voted against the Ashb

# Changes made in local polling places

1-30-82

The polling places for a substantial number of Cloud county residents have been changed from where they have been in previous elections, so voters are encouraged to note the changes before they go to the polls on Tuesday.

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The Concordia First Ward will also be voting at the American Legion Hall, while both precincts of the Concordia Second ward will cast their ballots as usual at the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall, 11th and Highland Drive.

Polling places will also be open at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Aurora for voters in Aurora City, and Aurora and Colfax townships; at the Clyde City Hall for voters in Clyde City, and Elk township; at the Glasco City Hall for voters in Glasco, and Lyon, Solomon and West Meredith townships; at the Jamestown City Hall for voters in Jamestown, and Grant and Summit townships; at the Miltonvale City Hall for Miltonvale, and Oakland, East Meredith and Starr townships; at the Hollis Schoolhouse for North Lawrence township, at the Nelson Community Center for South Lawrence and Nelson townships; at the Silver Arrow Schoolhouse for Arion township, and at the Shirley Township Hall for Shirley township.

All of the polling places will be open from 7 a. m. to 7 p. m. on Tuesday for voters to cast their primary ballots.

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

# Local crime up slightly in July 1982

3-2-82

A surge in the number of vandalism cases reported to Concordia police last month accounted for an overall increase in local crime during July '82, Concordia Chief of Police Dennis Rohr reports.

In his monthly crime report, Rohr reported that the 12 misdemeanor and seven felony vandalism cases reported in July 1982 was a dramatic increase from the five misdemeanor and three felony vandalism cases reported in July 1981. The increase in vandalism more than accounted for the increases in overall crimes reported which jumped from 30 in July 1981 to 35 in July 1982.

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During the month of July 1982, police also cleared 15 criminal cases including nine vandalism, two thefts, a hit and run accident, an obscene phone calls case and two battery cases. Police also issued 26 traffic citations and filed 29 non-traffic related charges. There were 26 traffic accidents worked by local police during July 1982.

7-30-82

NOTICE OF HEARING
1983 BUDGET

The governing body of
The City of Concordia
will meet on the 11th day of August, 1982 at 7:00 P.M., at
City Hall, 6th & Lincoln
for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds (including the use of the Federal Revenue Sharing Fund and its relationship to the entire budget), the amount of tax to be levied, and to consider amendments.

Detailed budget information is available at
City Hall, 6th & Lincoln
and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

The Amount of Tax to be Levied and the Expenditures for each fund of the Proposed Budget 1983 establish the maximum limits of the budget that will be adopted. The Estimated Tax Rate is for information only. The Final Levy Rate may vary but will not exceed statutory limitations.

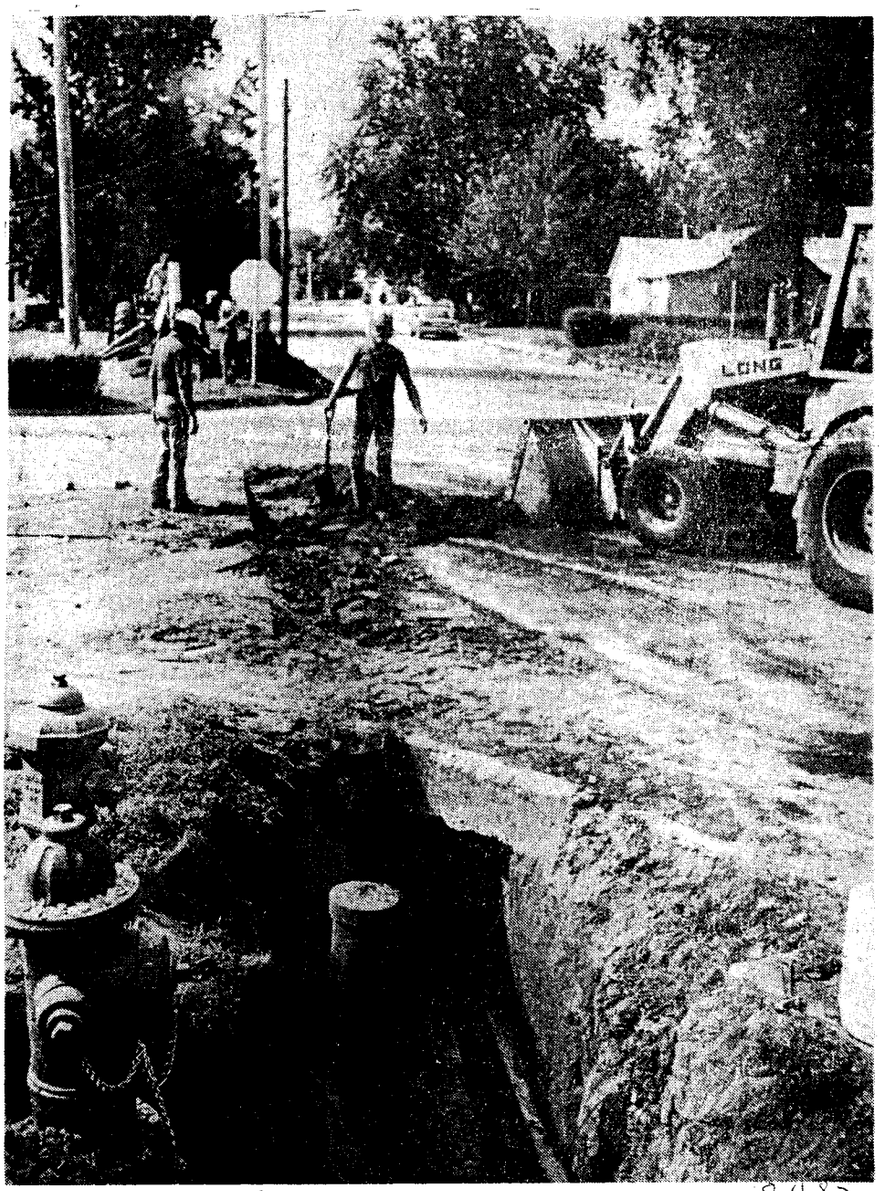
| | 1981 | | 1982 | | PROPOSED BUDGET 1983 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fund | Actual Tax Rate% | Actual Expenditures | Actual Tax Rate% | Budget or Estimate of Expenditures | Est. Tax Rate% | Amount of Tax to be Levied | Expenditures |
| General | 1.788 | 715,668 | 1.615 | 859,301 | 1.497 | 249,000 | 1,020,440 |
| Library | .300 | 52,894 | .300 | 54,332 | .300 | 49,929 | 55,091 |
| Recreation | .120 | 21,400 | .120 | 27,128 | .120 | 19,972 | 21,980 |
| Industrial | .025 | 5,639 | .025 | 11,144 | .100 | 16,643 | 31,038 |
| Fire Equip. Res. | XXX | XXX | XXX | 13 | XXX | XXX | XXX |
| Employee Benefit | .534 | 192,164 | .572 | 219,867 | .549 | 91,390 | 239,609 |
| Noxious Weed | XXX | 565 | XXX | 2,593 | XXX | XXX | 2,593 |
| Special Utility | .408 | 65,247 | .443 | 79,394 | .416 | 69,308 | 90,890 |
| Special Highway | XXX | 53,067 | XXX | 48,783 | XXX | XXX | 82,608 |
| Fed.Revenue Sharing | XXX | 54,741 | XXX | 48,860 | XXX | XXX | 59,857 |
| Spec.Alcohol Prog. | XXX | 6,119 | XXX | 12,950 | XXX | XXX | 7,656 |
| Spec.St.Machinery | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX |
| Parking Meter | XXX | 16,982 | XXX | 7,271 | XXX | XXX | 3,646 |
| Spec.Parks & Rec. | XXX | 9,517 | XXX | 5,550 | XXX | XXX | 14,331 |
| Spec.Amb.& Fire Equip. | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX |
| Bond & Interest | .409 | 199,330 | .418 | 190,519 | .352 | 59,349 | 193,699 |
| No Fund Warrants | .182 | 28,216 | .178 | 37,100 | .185 | 30,838 | 38,067 |
| Water & Sewer Util. | XXX | 456,775 | XXX | 572,241 | XXX | XXX | 587,030 |
| Airport Revolving | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX |
| Inventory Revolv. | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX |
| Central Garage | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX |
| Cemetery Endow. | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX | XXX |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Total | 3.766 | 1,878,324 | 3.671 | 2,177,046 | 3.524 | xxxxxxxxxx | 2,448,535 |
| Total Tax Levied | | 611,413 | | 611,413 | | 586,429 | |
| Assessed Valuation | | 16,236,915 | | 16,654,819 | | Est. Assessed Val. | 16,642,928 |

| Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1, | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 |
|---|---|---|---|
| General Obligation Bonds | 846,000.00 | 975,600.00 | 980,200.00 |
| Special Obligation Bonds | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| Revenue Bonds | 700,000.00 | 700,000.00 | 700,000.00 |
| Temporary Notes | 307,269.00 | 184,921.00 | 13,530.00 |
| No-Fund Warrants | 73,679.00 | 103,000.00 | 81,500.00 |
| Total | 1,926,948.00 | 1,963,521.00 | 1,775,230.00 |

*Tax Rates are expressed in Dollars/$100 assessed valuation.

Verna Scott
City Clerk

| Financial Statement and Adopted Budget FEDERAL REVENUE SHARING FUND | Code | 1981 Actual | 1982 Budget or Estimate | BUDGET 1983 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Unreserved Fund Balance, January 1 | | 1,072 | 7,056 | 6,448 |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Shared Revenue | | | | |
| Federal Revenue Sharing | | 59,899 | 48,252 | 53,409 |
| Use of Money | | | | |
| Interest Income | | 331 | -- | -- |
| Reimbursed Expense | | 495 | -- | -- |
| | | | | |
| RESOURCES AVAILABLE | | 61,797 | 55,308 | 59,857 |
| Expenditures: | | | | |
| General Government | | 908 | | 6,000 |
| Public Safety | | 8,344 | 8,100 | 1,700 |
| Public Transportation | | 37,323 | 32,594 | 47,857 |
| Public Grounds | | 8,166 | 8,166 | 4,300 |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | | 54,741 | 48,860 | 59,857 |
| | | 7,056 | 6,448 | -0- |




8-4-82

***The hole story***

**Workmen installing new sections of water lines near Sixth and Matthew streets are giving the street a real beating as they prepare to repair a line. The water project is proving a major inconvenience to residents in the area who are being subjected to temporary water shut-offs, and will be affecting motorists as well since the street will be restricted to one-lane traffic while the repairs are being made. (Blade-Empire photo by Chris Black)**

# Proposed City Budget Mill Levy Decreases

8-5-82

Concordia city officials had good news for local taxpayers the past week when the 1983 proposed budget was published. The proposed figures indicate a decrease of 1.47 mills in the property tax levy—from 36.73 mills to 35.24. This is the second year for a decrease primarily due to the addition of sales tax as a source of revenue. The 1981 mill levy was 37.66, 2.42 mills more than the proposed 1983 levy. Other local taxing units not receiving sales tax income generally have increased property taxes the past two years.

The public hearing on the budget has been set for 7 p.m., on Wednesday, Aug. 11, in the commission meting room at the City Hall.

Following are other highlights of the budget as pointed out by City Manager Carl Metzger in his budget message to the city commission:

—Total expenditures increase 2.7%.

—Property taxes decrease $24,934 or 4.1%.

—The city tax base (tangible assessed valuation) decreased in 1982 by .001%—from $16,654,613 to $16,642,928.

—Property taxes decrease $40,798—2.42 mills—during the two-year 1981-1983 period.

—1982 Sales Tax revenue will total $160,000, up $40,000 from the projected figure last year. Approximately $25,000 of this revenue is going to property tax relief in 1982.

—Increased 1983 Sales Tax revenue totaling $28,400 is being used to fund a reserve account for emergency purposes.

—Staffing is maintained at current levels for 1983.

—Total personnel costs including wages, fringe benefits and health insurance are projected to increase 5.1%.

—Water utility rates are scheduled to increase 21% on Jan. 1, 1983.

—Sewer utility rates will be increased if necessary in April.

—Principal payments on the Wastewater Treatment facility begins in 1983. The first year payment is $25,000.

—Bond indebtedness decreases .8%.

# Vandalism, theft reported

8-4-82

Concordia police are investigating a report of vandalism and a theft which occurred overnight. Police received a report that vandals had poured white rust inhibitor paint and grease over a 1950 pickup belonging to Unified School District No. 333, and broke out the rear window while the pickup was parked at the south side of the high school.

Mike Yaksich, 715 Archer, reported the theft of a large hanging fern plant from his front porch. Loss was estimated at $20.

# Vandalism reported

7-27-82

**Over the weekend vandals sprayed the walls of the shelter house at the swimming pool with black spray paint, Concordia police report. Minor damage was reported as a result of the incident.**

# William Bryant named Municipal Court Judge

7-27-82

**William Bryant has been appointed Concordia Municipal Court Judge replacing Kenneth Peery who recently resigned from the position, City Manager Carl Metzger announced today.**

**Bryant, who has served as judge pro tem since July 1, is a graduate of the Washburn University School of Law. He practiced law in McCook, Neb. and at Hesston where he served as Assistant Harvey County Attorney from 1977 to 1978, before returning to Concordia. He currently serves as trust officer for the Cloud County Bank and Trust.**

# Concordia crime rate up

8-3-82

A surge in the number of vandalism cases reported to Concordia police last month accounted for an overall increase in local crime during July '82, Concordia Chief of Police Dennis Rohr reports.

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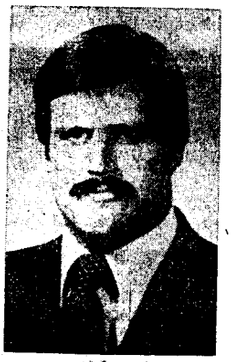

Municipal Judge Bill Bryant

8-5-82

## Bryant Named City Judge

Bill Bryant, a native of Concordia has been appointed as the new Municipal Judge here, replacing Kenneth Peery who resigned earlier this summer. The announcement was made by City Manager Carl Metzger who appointed Bryant.

Bryant is a graduate of the Washburn University School of Law in 1975; practiced law in McCook, Neb., and Hesston, Kan. and served as assistant county attorney in Harvey County from 1977 to 1978. He presently serves as trust officer for Cloud County Bank and Trust.

The Peerys have moved from Concordia to the Karsas City area.

## City Holds Brief Session

7-29-82

A brief business session was held by Concordia City Commissioners Wednesday afternoon.

Mayor Greg Hattan and Commissioner Ernest Girard appointed themselves as the official voting delegates to the Sept. 26-28 annual League of Kansas Municipalities meeting in Topeka.

The commission also gave official approval to an ordinance rezoning portions of the block adjacent to the county yards from mobile home district to heavy industrial. City Attorney David Retter was instructed to draft the ordinance at the July 21 meeting.

Concordia police officer Burl Maley was presented a certificate showing completion of the necessary training to become an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). Maley said he has completed 200 hours of training, more than the minimum requirement.

Commissioner Lee Doyen was out of town and absent from the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned to Wednesday, Aug. 11, at 7 p.m. for the public hearing on the proposed 1983 budget.

## Water to be shut off

8-4-82

The water main contractor installing water mains for the City of Concordia will be installing new tie-ins and valves and removing old ones. The water will be shut off at 1 p. m. for approximately 5 hours on Thursday, Aug. 5. The water shut-off area will be smaller than in the past.

It will include 6th Street from Spruce to Doster; 7th Street from Olive to Church; and Matthew from 6th to 11th Streets. Low water pressure may be experienced in an area around the fairgrounds, Barleen Mobile Home court, and areas east of Matthew. Construction will be at 6th and Matthew, and motorists should use caution in these areas.

## Car fire extinguished

8-9-82

The Concordia Fire Department responded to a car fire shortly after 10 p.m. Tuesday. When firefighters arrived at the fire near 8th and Broadway, they found the wiring of a car belonging to Jim Emmel had caught fire. The firemen stripped the hot wiring and quickly brought the blaze under control. There was no estimate of damage which appeared to be restricted to the car's wiring.

## Concordia among cities denied injunction against KCC hearing

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Chief Justice Alfred Schroeder of the Kansas Supreme Court today denied a request by six Kansas cities for a temporary injunction blocking the Kansas Corporation Commission from holding a preliminary hearing into municipal franchise agreements.

The cities — Topeka, Wichita, Kansas City, Concordia, Dodge City and Salina — sought the injunction Monday, on the eve of a commission hearing on assessment of costs in its planned investigation into the charging of franchise taxes by communities of the state.

Schroeder denied the request without comment this morning, and the KCC planned to proceed with what was expected to be a brief hearing on assessing costs for the investigation.

Brian Moline, KCC chief counsel, said the hearings on the franchise tax policies of the various cities and towns of Kansas has not yet been scheduled.

Franchise taxes are the fee that electric, gas and telephone utilities pay city governments in compensation for the use of city streets, alleys and property in carrying out private business. The tax is based on a percentage of the rates the utility charges and varies from city to city.

In the injunction request, the cities charge that the commission is overstepping it's statuatory authority and has no jurisdiction or right to investigate a city's franchise agreement with a utility.

The cities also claim that an investigation by the state corporation commission "will have a chilling effect on the ability of said municipalities to negotiate at arms length with the utilities which are subject to the jurisdiction of the corporation commission."

The injunction, if granted, would stop a hearing scheduled to begin Tuesday morning. The commission, in an order issued July 28, stated it would investigate the tax and see whether the "tax rates and structures are reasonably related to the original purpose of franchise taxes."

The KCC also will investigate whether the revenues collected from franchise taxes reasonably reflect the costs imposed by the utility and whether the existing tax rates an structures "unfairly or unduly discriminate against any class or classes of ratepayers."

In the suit filed Monday, the cities also claim the investigation would damage negotiations currently underway with utilities.

8-10-82

# City Residents To Vote On Sales Tax Increase

8-19-82

**City Offers Trade—Intangibles For More Sales Tax**

At the urging of nearly 40 Concordians in the audience the Concordia City Commission Wednesday afternoon passed an ordinance placing on the November ballot the question of adding a one-half percent sales tax to the current 3½% making an even 4% if approved by the voters.

The visitors mostly retired senior citizens, first asked for repeal of the intangibles tax on interest and dividend income. The spokesman for the group was Kent Ferman. The city commission earlier this year passed two intangibles items—one established the tax for 1982 and the other set the same tax (2¼%) for 1983

Mayor Greg Hattan was prepared and offered a trade on behalf of the commission. He explained the intangibles tax for 1982 (on 1981) income cannot be changed and it cannot be voted upon. However, for 1983 (on 1982 interest income) it can be changed.

Hattan said the commission is prepared to drop the intangible tax for 1983 if city residents will approve an additional ½c sales tax. The mayor also had figures prepared by the city staff to hand out to the audience. The estimated revenue from another ½c sales tax was listed as $188,000. Estimated intangibles tax revenue next year was set at $135,000 for the city of Concordia, according to the Cloud County Clerk's office.

Hattan pointed out this gives the city an additional $53,000 in revenue if the added ½c is approved. He further promised that the extra income from the sales tax would go toward reduction of property taxes in the city.

The city has lowered property taxes this year (for 1983 budget) as well as last year with use of the ½c sales tax passed last year by local voters.

It was further expained that the 1c local sales tax has been approved in Belleville, Beloit, Manhattan and Salina, at some of which used the same trade--remove the intangibles for adding the local sales tax.

The commission rejected a possibility of seeking a county-wide ½c sales tax explaining the city would come up with $36,000 less revenue. This is because Concordia retailers have well over one-half of all the sales in the county and if the ½c was county-wide money collected here would have to be shared with the county and other towns in the county. However, the county and each of the other towns can seek a local sales tax, also via the election route.

Mayor Hattan said that if the city dropped the intangibles tax without replacing the revenue local property owners would see an 8½ mill increase—or 25%—in their property taxes. He and City Manager Carl Metzger explained they felt the city had cut as many city expenses as possible but that 75% to 80% of the expenses are fixed. Any further cuts would mean further reductions in services.

Also asking questions and speaking from the audience were Bob Darby, K. I. Menzies, and others.

The commission approved the resolution placing the added ½c sales tax on the Nov. 2 ballot It was further stated that if the ½c is approved the commission will initiate action dropping the 1983 intangibles tax and not require that petitions be circulated after Jan. 1 calling for a special referendum to vote out the intangibles tax.

**Bids on Downtown Improvements Too High**

The bid-letting on the downtown improvement and beautification ended up as bid rejection. All but one of the bids on one of the six phases of the project were in excess of the engineer's estimate. The commission, which was minus Ernest Girard Wednesday, decided to meet at 4:30 p.m. Friday for a special session when Girard is back in town. In the meantime the city manager was asked to contact the bidding contractors to see if negotiating their bids downward is a possibility.

The other possibilities include rebidding the work opening bidding to outside contractors, or starting over and circulate new petitions calling for the improvements at a higher engineer's estimate. Only one local contractor bid on any one phase of the job.

Phases five and six came the closest to the engineer's estimate with one of the bids just below the estimate. The work in these two phases included the block from Broadway to Lincoln on 6th street. The improvements include replacing the curb and guttering, sidewalks, and new trash receptacles — no beautification.

BG Constructoin bid $20,349 on one side of the block, just under the $20,715 set as the engineer's estimate.

Logan Construction bid $25,119 for the work on the other side of the street, just over the $24,634 set by the engineer.

The total on these two was $45,349, compared to $45,469 as the engineer's estimate.

On the other four phases the engineer's estimate totaled $160,434; the total of the bids received was $178,835. none of the phases in this part was successfully bid. The work includes replacing curbs, guttering, sidewalks, and beautification between State and Broadway streets on 6th street.

Goff Conconsruction bid on Phase 1, $42,553 (eng. est.: $38,367); Goff also bid Phase 2, $47,529 ($43,023); Logan Construction bid Phase 3, $47,495 ($42,787); BG Construction bid Phase 4, $41,257 ($36,254).

In other business Wednesday, the commission accepted the 1981 annual city audit from Kennedy and Coe accounting firm. At the request of City Manager Metzger, the firm prepared a proposal for a three-year period which was approved. The fee for the 1982 audit will not exceed $7,300 and the fees for the additional two years of the contract will not exceed a 15% increase each year.

The commission approved a $130 charge against real estate reportedly owned by Gary Saltman at 325 E. 14th—legal des.: Lot 14 and West 30 ft. Lot 15, Block 60—for work the city did in ridding the property of weeds, trash and other debris. The bill will be forwarded to the county clerk to be placed on the property tax of the lot. The property is among those listed on page seven as having unpaid 1981 real estate taxes.

Besides the special meeting Friday afternoon, the commission set a study session for Aug. 26 at 4 p.m.

8-20-82

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

ON THE INTANGIBLE TAX

No. 1. Did you ever pay poll tax? I remember when every male person was supposed to pay $2.00 Poll Tax. Only a few did, some worked it out.

No. 2. About forty years ago, the Legislature changed the poll tax to $3.00. (To promote this change, it was said if you raise it to $3.00, it would be large enough to afford to try and collect it. Still very few paid.

No. 3. The poll tax was then discontinued, and a tax was substituted which required every one to turn in on their income tax blank, the amount of money they had in their bank account. Still very few turned it in. A survey was made with the three banks in Concordia, totaling their combined deposits, and it was found that only 1% was turning in the tax.

No. 4. When you retire you get out of the labor category. How do you live? —Social Security? Interest? Rents? If you own a rental house, you pay income tax on the rent, you pay property tax on the house, and you pay intangible tax. THIS IS TRIPLE TAXATION ON THE SAME INCOME.

No. 5. In 1981 I carried a petition to have the intangible tax removed. Out of the forty signatures I received, three people openly admitted that they DID NOT TURN IN THEIR INTANGIBLE TAX.

No. 6. In 1980 the state legislature gave Cities, Counties, and Townships the right to eliminate the intangible tax, and gave the people the right to petition to have it removed. The State Legislature knew it was a Nuisance tax, an Unjust Tax, and also Triple taxation.

No. 7. Since the Legislature passed this law, this intangible tax has been reduced or eliminated, by most of the large cities. Kansas City, Kansas, Topeka, Wichita, Coffeyville, Chanute, Manhattan, Arkansas City, Winfield, and about 20 other cities. Out of the present 105 counties in Kansas, 66 counties have made reductions, or eliminated the intangible tax.

No. 8. The Kansas Supreme Court found that this intangible tax was unconstitutional, and it was eliminated. But it was left up to the Cities, Counties nd Townships to levy an Excise Tax to take its place. One third of the townships in Cloud County had the nerve and foresight to reduce or eliminate this tax.

No. 9. The Federal Government has eliminated the Income Tax, and the Intangible tax by urging patriotic people to buy KEOUGH, IRA, and ALL SAVERS Plans, the tax is postponed. The purpose as explained by the Federal Government, is to CURB INFLATION. Now the Cities, Counties and Townships impose an excise tax to keep you from buying Money Market Certificates, and Treasury Bills. To me this is plain NUTS.

No. 10. How can the tax be collected? Is the County Clerk to assume that if you paid Intangible Tax to the State in 1981, you surely owe tax in 1982, and call for an investigation. Or will they pass a law like the Internal Revenue has, to spot check by random?

No. 11. We read in the Topeka Capital Journal on June 23, 1982 an article written by Chris McKenzie, a staff member with the LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES and we quote some of his statements. He says there is no way to enforce the tax. We are going to have to depend on the good will of the people to pay the tax if they owe it.

Bringing the intangibles tax down to the local level has made enforcement of the tax a big question mark, and the status quo won't do if local governments intend to keep the tax.

Any tax is a poor tax when it is not enforceable.

He says the problem with the intangibles tax is that the counties are ESTATE ARE EASIER TO COLLECT. Sales tax is collected at point of sale. And with property taxes, the government at least knows who should be taxed and the taxpayers are notified.

When the Legislature allowed local governments to re-institute the intangibles tax with an excise tax, they left out a very important provision, HOW TO ENFORCE THE LAW.

The league of Kansas Municipalities is the legal advice for member cities in the state of Kansas.

No. 12. Maybe the Solution. No one should be scared by someone saying, "If you take the intangible tax off you will have to put it on the property tax." This is not true. Expenses can be cut. The big salaries can be cut. Big labor has done so. Concordia now has more vacant buildings down town than ever before. Our merchants down town are taking a big cut. The assessment on inventory stocks, free machinery, free cattle and almost every merchant wondering how low an inventory he can turn in and not get caught. If all these belt tightening things fail, we could raise the sales tax to 4%.

Kent C. Ferman
Former Owner
Western Auto Store,
31 years
Vernon D. Martin
Former Owner
Martin Drug Co.
48 years

## Registration books open

**A list of registered voters who have moved or changed their names since the August primary has been prepared and submitted to the county clerk's office.**

**These people will need to re-register before the Nov. 2 general election or they will not be eligible to vote. The registration books will close on Oct. 12.**

**Residents living in the townships should register at the county clerk's office in the courthouse. Residents living in the various towns can re-register at their respective city halls or at the county clerk's office.**

to hand out to the audience. The estimated revenue from another ½c sales tax was listed as $188,000. Estimated intangibles tax revenue next year was set at $155,000 for the city of Concordia, according to the Cloud County Clerk's office.

Hattan pointed out this gives the city an additional $53,000 in revenue if the added ½c is approved. He further promised that the extra income from the sales tax would go toward reduction of property taxes in the city.

The city has lowered property taxes this year (for 1983 budget) as well as last year with use of the ½c sales tax passed last year by local voters.

It was further expained that the 1c local sales tax has been approved in Belleville, Beloit, Manhattan and Salina, at some of which used the same trade--remove the intangibles for adding the local sales tax.

The commission rejected a possibility of seeking a county-wide ½c sales tax explaining the city would come up with $36,000 less revenue. This is because Concordia retailers have well over one-half of all the sales in the county and if the ½c was county-wide money collected here would have to be shared with the county and other towns in the county. However, the county and each of the other towns can seek a local sales tax, also via the election route.

Mayor Hattan said that if the city dropped the intangibles tax without replacing the revenue local property owners would see an 8½ mill increase—or 25%—in their property taxes. He and City Manager Carl Metzger explained they felt the city had cut as many city expenses as possible but that 75% to 80% of the expenses are fixed. Any further cuts would mean further reductions in services.

Also asking questions and speaking from the audience were Bob Darby, K. I. Menzies, and others.

The commission approved the resolution placing the added ½c sales tax on the Nov. 2 ballot It was further stated that if the ½c is approved the commission will initiate action dropping the 1983 intangibles tax and not require that petitions be circulated after Jan. 1 calling for a special referendum to vote out the intangibles tax.

clude replacing the curb and guttering, sidewalks, and new trash receptacles — no beautification.

BG Constructoin bid $20,349 on one side of the block, just under the $20,715 set as the engineer's estimate.

Logan Construction bid $25,119 for the work on the other side of the street, just over the $24,634 set by the engineer.

The total on these two was $45,349, compared to $45,469 as the engineer's estimate.

On the other four phases the engineer's estimate totaled $160,434; the total of the bids received was $178,835. none of the phases in this part was successfully bid. The work includes replacing curbs, guttering, sidewalks, and beautification between State and Broadway streets on 6th street.

Goff Conconsruction bid on Phase 1, $42,553 (eng. est.: $38,367); Goff also bid Phase 2, $47,529 ($43,023); Logan Construction bid Phase 3, $47,495 ($42,787); BG Construction bid Phase 4, $41,257 ($36,254).

In other business Wednesday, the commission accepted the 1981 annual city audit from Kennedy and Coe accounting firm. At the request of City Manager Metzger, the firm prepared a proposal for a three-year period which was approved. The fee for the 1982 audit will not exceed $7,300 and the fees for the additional two years of the contract will not exceed a 15% increase each year.

The commission approved a $130 charge against real estate reportedly owned by Gary Sallman at 325 E. 14th—legal des.: Lot 14 and West 30 ft. Lot 15, Block 60—for work the city did in ridding the property of weeds, trash and other debris. The bill will be forwarded to the county clerk to be placed on the property tax of the lot. The property is among those listed on page seven as having unpaid 1981 real estate taxes.

Besides the special meeting Friday afternoon, the commission set a study session for Aug. 26 at 4 p.m.

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He says the problem with the intangibles tax is that the counties are now responsible for collection, but county officials DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO INCOME TAX STATEMENTS FILED BY PEOPLE WHO MUST PAY THE INTANGIBLES TAX. That leaves county officials with little in the way of information on which to base a tax assessment.

Also, compliance with income tax laws is largely on the honor system, too. And cheating the government has become a Multi-billion dollar annual problem. Some estimates place the federal government's revenue loss from income tax evasion and cheating at $89 billion a year.

At least the Internal Revenue Service has auditors and enforcement powers, as well as a reputation of tracking down tax cheaters.

SALES TAX AND TAXES ON PERSONAL PROPERTY AND REAL

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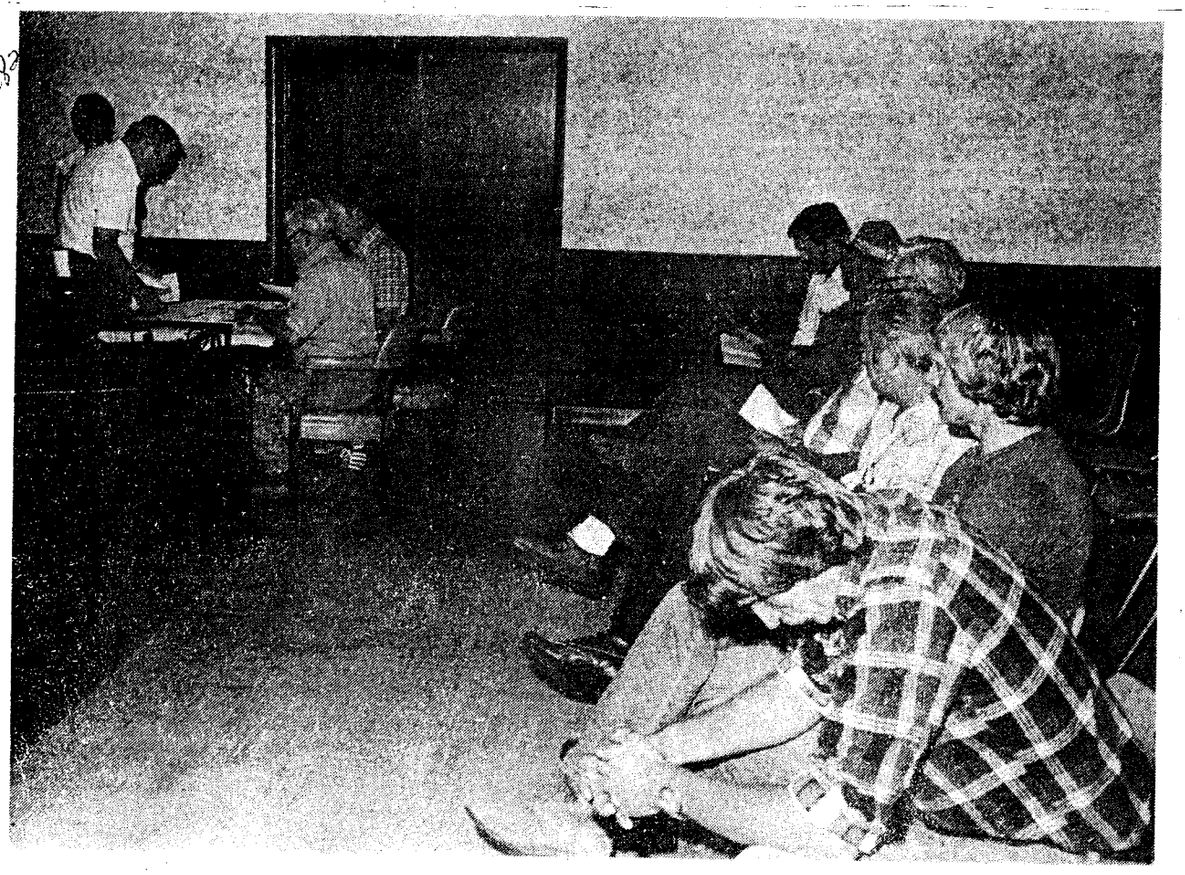
8-18-82



***Studying bids***
Engineers were studying bids yesterday afternoon as the contractors patiently waited. Unfortunately, all but one of the bids received on the six-phase downtown redevelopment project exceeded the engineer's estimate. (Blade photo by Chris Black)

# Five out of six bids exceed estimates

All but one of the bids on one phase of a six-phase downtown redevelopment project came in over the engineer's estimates when the bids were opened yesterday by the city commissioners.

Only three contractors bid on the six-phase project and each of them bid on different phases. The city commisisoners must now decide whether to seek new bids and open the bidding in out-of-town contractors or to attempt to negotiate the separate phases with the contractors submitting bids yesterday.

When approving the project several months ago, the city commissioners said that every effort would be made to use local contractors for the work. The commissioners will attempt to decide the next step at their regular meeting today.

The only bid coming in under the engineer's estimate was for Phase VI, a half block section between Broadway and Lincoln streets. BG Construction submitted a bid of $20,349.80, which was below the engineer's estimate of $20,715.50.

Bids and the engineer's estimates on the other phases were: Phase I-Goff Construction, $42,553.60, engineer's estimate $38,367.70; Phase II—Goff construction, $47,529.63, engineer's estimate $43,023.80; Phase III—Logan Construction, $47,494.95, engineer's estimate $42,787.70; Phase IV—BG Construction, $41,257.05, engineer's estimate $36,254.80; and Phase V—Logan Construction, $25,119.32, engineer's estimate $24,634.00.

Phases I through IV are half block sections in the area between State and Broadway streets and includes the beautification portion of the project. Phases V and VI are half block sections between Broadway and Lincoln streets.

8-23-82

# Construction to begin after Labor Day

Work on the downtown inprovement project will begin sometime after Labor Day, according to Concordia city manager Carl Metzger.

Metzger said this morning that contracts are being prepared for Goff Construction, BG Construction, and Logan Construction, to do the work.

He said that all of the contractors indicated that they would begin shortly after Labor Day and that they all believed they could get the work done before bad weather set in. Metzger said that the city would allow them to work up until about the third week in November. After that work will cease until after the Christmas shopping season is over, he said.

Metzger said that the decision to extend contracts to the three contractors came after an adjourned session of the city commission Friday afternoon. Prior to the meeting, Metzger said, he had negotiated with the contractors and that they had cut their bids by approximately $24,000. The original bids on the total project had exceeded the engineer's estimate by about $18,000.

Metzger said that the contractors answered some tough questions Friday afternoon about how it came to pass that only three contractors bid on the project and that each of them bid on different blocks.

Don LeKamp and Jim Stallbaumer from the Cloud County Bank & Trust appeared at the meeting to explain that because of the size of the contracting companies it was virtually impossible for any one of them to get bonded for more than two phases of the project.

8-13-82

# City to turn water off in several areas next week

The City of Concordia Water Department will be shutting off the water at 8 a. m. on Tuesday, Aug. 17, in the following areas:

—7th Street—from Olive to Church

—8th Street—from Olive to Matthew

—9th Street—from Valley to Matthew, and

—Matthew—from 6th Street to 9th Street

The water main contractor will be making final connections on to the new mains in this area. Water will be off for approximately five hours.

While the water is off the Water Department will take the opportunity to replace a broken fire hydrant and valves at 8th and Matthew.

This will be the last time the water will be turned off for this phase of the project.

The water department will also be working in the downtown area during the next several weeks.

The purpose of this work is to improve the water and fire protection systems by replacing specific valves and fire hydrants that do not work properly.

It will involve the intersections of:

—6th and Broadway

—6th and Washington

—6th and State

Some of the work to be done will require the water to be shut off on several occasions. This will be done a block at a time and normally completed before 9 a. m.

Crosswalks will be blocked off to pedestrian traffic in the work areas.

# Boy Scout wants to build benches for downtown

8-19-82

Concordia could have benches to provide downtown places of rest if a prospective Eagle Scout gets to carry out his proposed project. Andy Mosher, 14, the youngest of the Robert Moshers' four sons, wants to build the benches to be used as the city dictates as his Eagle project.

He talked to Carl Metzger, Concordia city manager, and conducted a survey among the businessmen. This brought favorable comment, so he went back to city hall where the project was approved. He also has the approval of Scout officials—and a cost figure of $60.00 per bench. This would be the cost of a metal and pine painted bench, the most economical kind.

Mosher, a freshman at Concordia High School and a member of Troop 31, First United Methodist Church, plans to use his own tools. To qualify his work for Eagle approval he must show leadership, which he plans to do by involving other troop members in the work. The project must benefit community, school or church, and Mosher feels many senior citizens would agree that his meets this qualification.

To begin, Mosher must raise capital. He has asked that anyone wishing to help please call him at 243-3432, or send the donation to his home, 528 West 2nd Street, or to his Scoutmaster, John McDonald, Concordia Junior High School principal.

When Mosher receives his Eagle Award it will not be a first in his family. His three older brothers earned theirs earlier. They are: Roger, a senior at Wichita State University and employed by Coleman, for whom he will continue to work after he receives his degree in manufacturing engineering in December; Jerry, in his second year of work on his doctorate in drug research at the University of Kansas; and Alan, a sophomore at Cloud County Community College and a chemical engineering major. (Andy wants to study nuclear physics). Roger's wife, Mary, a registered nurse, has gone back to Wichita State University to earn her degree in nursing. She is the former Mary Hurley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hurley, Glasco.

The boys' father was Scoutmaster at Trinity United Methodist Church for many years and has served in other Scouting offices, which include the troop committee chairmanship he now holds. Mrs. Mosher has been a den mother more times than she remembers; they have been active in Scouting for the past 20 years.

Andy recently returned from Philmont Natoinal Scout Camp—the fourth Mosher son to attend.

8-31-82

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**The City of Concordia will be preparing a full application for the Community Development Block Grant. Two public hearings to obtain views of citizens concerning the proposed activities and progress on past Grants will be held on Thursday, September 16, 1982. The first meeting will be held at 12:00 Noon in the Commission Meeting Room at the City Hall, and the second meeting will be held at 7:30 o'clock p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center.**

**Michael E. Peterson**
**Administrative Asssistant to the Community Development Block Grant Program**

8-24-82

## POLICE OFFICER POSITION OPEN

**Concordia Police Department**

**Base Salary $12,580 a year plus many benefits.**

**For applications and additional information contact:**

**Dennis R. Rohr**
**Chief of Police**

**Equal Opportunity Employer**

9-18-82

# Propose sales tax hike

Concordia voters will decide Nov. 2 whether or not they want to increase the city-wide sales tax by one-half of one percent to a full one percent tax.

The decision to put the question on the ballot came after the city commissioners entertained a large delegation seeking repeal of the intangibles tax.

Mayor Greg Hattan told the group that the city commissioners believed that they could not repeal the intangibles tax unless the sales tax issue is approved by the voters. He explained that the city anticipates receiving $135,000 in 1983 from intangible tax collections. If the intangibles tax is repealed and the city does not receive additional funds from other sources, the property tax mill levy would have to be increased by 8.1 mills to raise an equal amount of money.

Hattan said that the commissioners would be reluctant to repeal the intangibles tax if a county-wide one half of one percent county tax was offered as an alternative because the city would end up with a deficit of approximately $36,202.00 in revenues in 1983. He explained that the intangibles tax will raise approximately $135,000 for the city in 1983, while the city's share of a county-wide sales tax would be only $98,798.00. He went on to say that the loss of revenue would have to be raised by increasing the property tax by 2.25 mills in addition to the city's share of the county-wide one half of one percent sales tax.

He said that if the city voters approve the city-wide sales tax increase an additional $188,000 in revenues would be raised in 1983. This would be $53,000 more than the intangibles tax and that amount would be used to lower the city's mill levy, Hattan added.

Hattan also pointed out that the cities of Belleville, Beloit, Clay Center, Manhattan and Salina all have approved a one cent sales tax.

Several members of the delegation appearing before the commission asked why the city could not reduce its expenditures if the intangible tax is repealed rather than seeking additional revenues elsewhere.

Mayor Hattan responded that the intangibles tax amounts to about one-fourth of the tax revenues raised locally to finance the budget. He said that the city's budget has gone up less than any other tax collecting unit in Cloud County and that he believes the city is operating efficiently.

Commissioner Lee Doyen challenged those questioning the city's efficiency to come forward, study the budget, and seek a spot on the commission if they believed they could do better. "We are not wasting money and it gets my ire up when some one says we're not," he said. "There's no fat in our budget."

The commissioners formally acted to reject the bids on the downtown improvement project which were opened Tuesday afternoon. Only one bid on one section of the project came in under the engineer's estimate.

Metzger explained that since the projects were authorized after the city received petitions requesting the improvements, state law prohibits the final cost of such project exceeding the engineer's estimates.

He explained that the city could now attempt to negotiate with the bidders on the projects or have the city clerk advertise for new bids.

Commissioner Doyen made a motion that the city manager study the bids with the contractors and return with further information to an adjourned meeting of the commissioners on Friday at 4:30 p.m.

Doyen expressed his surprise that only three contractors bid on the project and that each of them bid different phases of the six-phase project.

Metzger said that when the project was first suggested that he met with local contractors and that there was much interest in bidding on the projects at that time. It was decided, he said, to break the project down into six phases so the smaller contractors would be able to participate. "I don't know what happened to all the interest or why other local contractors did not bid on the projects," he said.

In other business the commissioners passed a resolution assessing the cost and expense of abating a weed nuisance at 325 E. 14th on property owned by Gary Sallman. Since the property owner did not respond to a statement sent by the city, the city can have the amount added to the property owner's tax statement, Metzger explained.

The commissioners also heard a report on the city audit prepared by Kennedy & Coe. They then authorized the mayor and city clerk to execute an agreement with the firm for auditing services in 1982, 1983 and 1984.

9-20-82

***Ribbon cutting***

Members of the Chamber of Commerce were out this morning to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony at Water Bed World, located at Concordia Plaza Shopping Center. Holding the ribbon were owner Loys Crawford, Lincoln, Neb., and store manager Dala Eisenman, Jamestown. Jolene Springer, chairman of the president's men and women division of the Chamber, cut the ribbon. (Blade photo by Chris Black)

concordia.

8-26-82

***New fire hydrants***

**City crews have been busy this week putting in new fire hydrants in the downtown business district prior to the start of construction work on the downtown improvement project. Contractors are expected to begin work next week on the project which will include new sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and a new asphalt overlay on the Sixth Street. The west two blocks in the area also will receive some special beautifying treatment including pedestrian crosswalk islands and trees at the intersections. (Blade photo by Chris Black)**

8-26-82

# Local Contractors To Do Work on Downtown Construction Project

Work is expected to begin about Sept. 7 on the major construction project in three blocks of downtown Concordia. The work, to be done by local contractors, includes new sidewalks, curbs and guttering in all three blocks, and mid-block and corner beautification in two of the blocks.

At a special meeting last Friday afternoon, the Concordia City Commission allowed the three local contractors who bid on the six phases of the project, to revise their bids downwards. Five of the original six bids were above the engineers' estimate. After considerable discussion, the revised bids were approved.

The total original bids were $224,304, compared to $205,783 listed as the engineer's estimated price. The local contractors dropped their figures nearly $20,000 to $204,863—less than $1,000 under the engineer's price.

The contractors, present at the meeting Friday, explained part of the drop was due to a reduction in the base price of ready-mix concrete from Quartzite Stone Co. The rest of the reduction came by cutting such items as clean-up and lost time due to coordinating work with the local utilities who may have underground work to do when the concrete has been removed. City Manager Carl Metzger explained the project still contains the same basic improvements and that little was deleted from the original plans.

The city commission's biggest question was why no more than one contractor bid on any one or two phases of the project. Each of the three contractors bid on two phases—blocks—of the work.

The question was not fully answered but some explanations were given.

Burton Gerard of BG Construction explained that due to a disagreement with a landowner in one of the blocks he did not wish to bid on these two phases. In addition, he had sub-bid some of the concrete demolition on two blocks bid by Logan Construction and therefore is forbid by state law from entering his own bid on the same work. This left two phases that he could bid on.

Ron Gerard of Logan Construction explained his firm will be plenty busy with two phases and won't even consider more than two phases. He also advised his firm couldn't be bonded for any more than two phases.

The bonding process was explained by Jim Stallbaumer and Don LaKamp of the Cloud County Bank and Trust. It was pointed out no Concordia contractor is large enough to be bonded on more than two phases and therefore cannot bid on more than he can be bonded for.

City Manager Metzger said he had contacted two local firms who expressed an interest in the bidding early last spring but did not submit bids last week. The two, Hood Construction and R and R Construction advised him they had different circumstances at bidding time compared to last spring and they had jobs enough to keep them busy without the downtown project.

Following are the bidders, their revised bid, original bid, and engineer's estimates:

Goff Construction Co., Phases I and II (north and south sides of the west block in the benefit district, from State to Washington on 6th St.) Phase I, $38,343 ($42,553) (EE, $38,367). Phase II, (south side) $42,705, ($47,529) (EE, $43,023). Goff lists 90 working days beginning Sept. 7.

Logan Construction, Phase III, north side of 6th from Washington to Broadway, and Phase V, north side of 6th from Broadway to Lincoln. Phase III, $42,781, ($47,495) (EE, $42,787) Phase V, $24,632 ($25,119) (EE $24,634) Starting date is listed as Oct. 1 and completion, May 15, 1983.

BG Construction, Phase IV, 6th from Washington to Broadway, and Phase VI, 6th from Broadway to Lincoln, both on the south side. Phase IV, $36,043 ($41,257) (EE, $36,254). Phase VI, original bids was $20,349, which was below the engineer's estimate of $20,715. Beginning Sept. 7 and completion on June 1, 1983

The city manager explained that if the contractors have not finished by about a week before Thanksgiving work will be halted until early spring.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Since the August Primary is over and with the help of the various Election Boards, a list of registered voters that have moved or changed their name, was given to the County Clerk. Those persons need to re-register before the General Election on November 2, 1982, or they will not be able to vote. The registration books will close on October 12, 1982. Those living in the townships should come to the County Clerk's Office in the Courthouse to register and those living in the towns or city can register at the City Halls in the various towns or at the County Clerk's Office in the Courthouse.

GRAND OPENING—Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held Thursday morning to mark the grand opening of Larry's Food Store in Concordia. Margaret and Larry Letourneau hold the ribbon while Dr. James Ihrig, Chamber of Commerce president, cuts the ribbon. The Letourneaus purchased the business recently from Donna Minard.

—Photo by Wm. DeArmond

9-3-82

9-2-82

# Concordia has much to offer

On these long holiday weekends millions of Americans hit the road to pursue their favorite pastimes or visit friends or relatives.

However, there is much to be said for staying at home on a long weekend particularly if you happen to live in Concordia, Kansas.

There are all kinds of fun and entertaining things taking place in Concordia most weekends and this Labor Day weekend is no exception.

First of all there is the Air Show which promises to be thrilling as well as interesting. Chuck Carothers, a former National Aerobatic Champion, will again appear in Concordia. Last year he thrilled the crowd with his inverted flat spins, inverted ribbon cuts and other breath taking maneuvers. In addition there will be other special features and antique planes which will delight the viewers.

The Concordia Jaycees have planned a number of events to help raise money for Muscular Dystrophy in conjunction with Jerry Lewis's telethon. The Jaycees will have a "celebrity" dunk stand at the air show on Sunday, a canoe race, horse-shoe pitching contest and car wash on Monday, and a pledge center open at the Cloud County Bank Sunday evening through Monday evening.

These are only special attractions which will add a little spice to the weekend. Concordia has many other facilities which are enjoyed throughout the year and which will be fully utilized this weekend.

Concordia has excellent tennis courts, beautiful parks, as fine a swimming pool as can be found anywhere, a nice 9-hole golf course, beautiful residential areas, and a movie theater. Who could ask for more?

Concordia is indeed a good place to spend a holiday weekend. It's just a matter of taking advantage of what is here and enjoying life. And the weather promises to be excellent for this, the last long weekend of the year.

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**Michael E. Peterson**
**Administrative Asssistant to the Community Development Block Grant Program**

9-14-82

# Reported crimes down in August

9-3-82

The number of crimes reported to the Concordia police department were down in August as compared to a year ago, according to statistics released today by Police Chief Dennis Rohr.

In 1981 the police investigated 35 cases of burglary, theft, and vandalism as compared to only 12 this August. The loss from the 1981 crimes was estimated at $5,180.00, while in 1982 the amount of estimated loss was $1,063.00.

Rohr also pointed out that statistics recently received from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation reveal that during the first six months of the year, crime in Cloud County was down 23 percent compared to the first six months of 1981.

During August the police department cleared two hit and run vehicle accident cases, proved two criminal cases as being unfounded, and arrested 10 persons in connection with criminal charges. Rohr said most of the arrests were drug related.

Rohr also said that 30 accidents were investigated in August as compared to 27 last year.

Rohr's statistics reveal that in August of 1981 four burglaries were reported with an estimated loss of $300.00, while in 1982 there were no burglaries reported. In 1981 four felony theft cases were reported with an estimated loss of $3,250.00, while in 1982 two felony thefts were reported with an estimated loss of $620.00. There were seven misdemeanor thefts reported in 1981 with an estimated loss of $320.00, while in 1982 there were five cases reported with an estimated loss of $128.00.

In 1981 there were four cases of felony vandalism reported with an estimated loss of $850.00 as compared to only one case in 1982 with an estimated loss of $200.00. There were 16 cases of misdemeanor vandalism reported in 1981 with an estimated loss of $460.00 as compared to only four cases in 1982 with an estimated loss of $115.00.

# Horkman receives certification for wastewater operator

9-647-82

Marjorie Horkman, Concordia, recently received a Class III wastewater treatment facility operator certification from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Jim Aiken, Divison of Environment Director, announced. Horkman qualified for the certification on the basis of training and experience, as well as passing a written exam.

"Horkman exhibited a working knowledge of the treatment processes, sampling procedures, state and local laws, and some laboratory analyses necessary for the operation of Concordia's wastewater treatment facility," Aiken said. "Horkman will continue on a training program in order to maintain certification."

The purpose of continued training is to assure Kansans their plants are efficiently operated and reflect best operation procedures. Certification for all water and wastewater treatment plant operators in Kansas has been required by law since 1975. Kansas certification ranges from Class I through Class IV.

# Retail division will sponsor Christmas trade promotion

8-14-82

The Retail Division of the Concordia Chamber of Commerce today approved a Christmas trade promotion which will include a weekly cash drawing and a grand prize of a trip for four to Disneyland in California.

The promotion will begin Oct. 1 and each two winners of $50.00 in script money will be drawn. The winners can redeem the script at any of the participating merchants' places of business.

The retail division also set the date of Thursday, Oct. 28, for the fall Moonlight Madness Sale.

Christmas shopping hours recommended by the committee will begin Dec. 13. It has been recommended that stores remain open each evening except Saturday until 8:30.

A number of the merchants attending the meeting voiced their objection to a tour of factory outlet stores in Kansas City being sponsored by the Thunderbird Travel Service.

Robin LacKamp of Cloud County Bank & Trust attended the meeting to explain a Christmas Club promotion that the bank is putting together for this season.

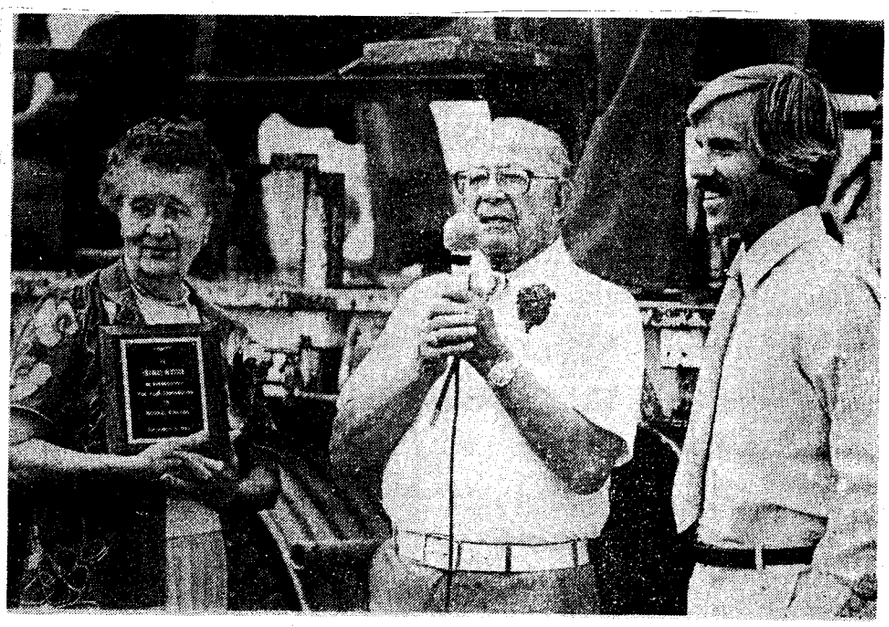
# Theft, vandalism reported

9-647-82

One theft and one act of vandalism were reported to the Law Enforcement Center over the holiday weekend.

The theft of two outside chrome rings off the front wheels of 1977 Pontiac were reported on Sept. 4 by Edna Bosnick. The loss was estimated at $55.00.

Burton Gerard reported to police that the ignition wires were cut on his Farmall tractor parked at 17th and Olive. Estimate of the damage was placed at $5.00.



9-647-82

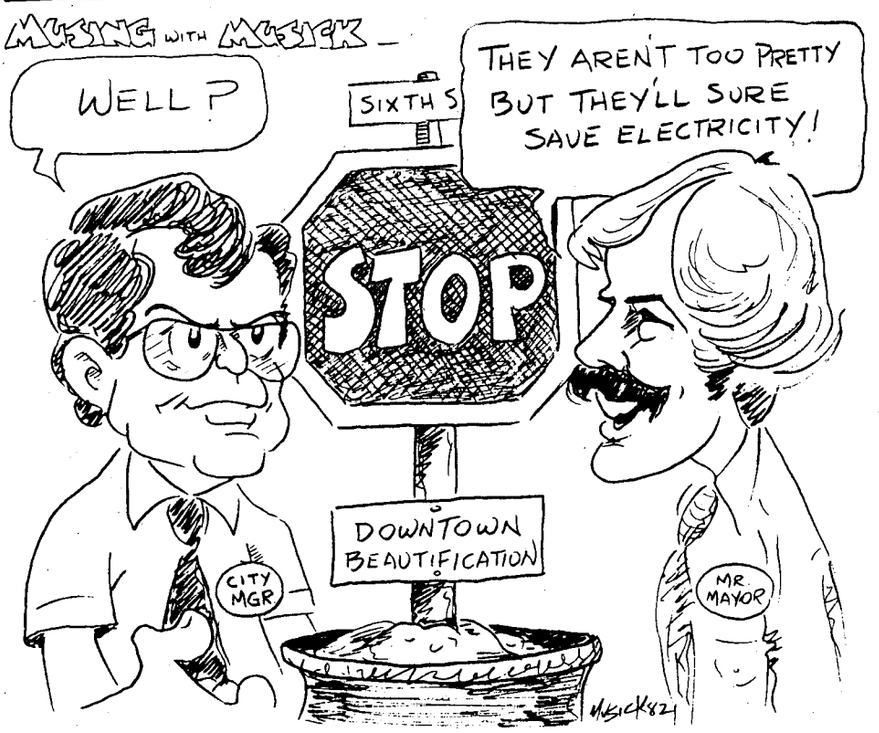
***Blosser honored***

**Concordia mayor Greg Hattan Sunday presented Charles Blosser with a plaque in recognition of his service to Concordia aviation. Blosser was honored on his 87th birthday at the Concordia air show. His wife, Isabell, was with him for the presentation. Blosser also flew his 1927 Lincoln-Page airplane during the show. (Blade photo by Chris Black)**

9-14-82

# BLADE-EMPIRE OPINIONS

Conc



**Country Club Hills Addition**

**Elegant 3-4 bedroom home. Fireplace, attractive size kitchen, 2½ baths, indoor stainless Barbecue, full basement, central heat, 2 car garage, well landscaped. Prestigious location. Very reasonable financing available to qualified buyer. Call for appointment. No house in this area can be bought as low as this one is priced.**

**Well worth the money!!** 9-22-82

**WON'T LAST**

**Detrixhe Realty**

**243-7872**

# Goff Construction Co.

9-1-82

**would like to thank the Concordia Downtown Merchants for their patience while the sidewalks and curbs are being replaced.**

***Thank You***

***Ken Goff***

***More new curbing***

Employees of Goff Construction were pouring more new concrete curbing this morning as part of the Concordia downtown improvement project. (Blade photo by Chris Black)

7/23-82

9-16-82

***Ribbon cutting ceremony***

Bonnie Sjogren this morning cut the ribbon signifying the formal opening of her fabric store. Holding the ribbon on the right is Linda Palmquist, an employee at Bonnie's Fabrics. (Blade photo by Chris Black)

***Grand opening***

There was a ribbon cutting ceremony this m0rning signalling the grand opening of Farm Management Services. Inc. at 310 Washington in Concordia. Holding the ribbon for Mayor Greg Hattan to cut were (left to right) Quentin Smith, president; Barry Childs, vice president; and Russell King, secretary-treasurer. (Blade photo by Chris Black)

9-22-82

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

9-17-82

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who helped make the Concordia Air Show such a success. Many hours of work are involved to put on a show such as this and would be impossible without the support and labor from the community. I would like to give a special thanks to the following: Jim Bell and the local Civil Defense, The Boy Scouts of America and local Law Enforcement who did a terrific job in maintaining the control of people and cars to prevent any accidents. Without crowd control the FAA would shut down the Air Show immediately. A special thanks to John Shaffer and the Park Department in providing a clean and well groomed airport. Many pilots compented on such well maintained runways. A special thanks to the Lions Club in providing the concessions and the Fly in Breakfast.

A special thanks to the Optimist Club in providing the barbecue and music during our preshow activities. A special thanks to the Shriners and the Blue Patrol in parking the aircraft and welcoming the pilots and their families to Concordia. A special thanks to all the individuals and firms that supported our show by either donations or underwriting the expenses of the show. Many dollars are required to put Airshows of this magnitude on. A special thanks to the Combat Air Museum in Topeka for their support in flying the C-47 into Concordia. It was very impressive to see an airplane of this size at the Concordia Airport. Also a thanks to all the aircraft owners who brought their aircraft to Concordia. Each and every airplane added to the show.

The list could go on and on because so many people shared their time and labor to make the show so enjoyable.

Thanks to Charles Blosser for his contribution to Aviation and his flight in his Lincoln Page which turned out to be the highlight of the day.

A special thanks to the Air Show Committee and Chamber of Commerce for all the help and work they contributed. They did a wonderful job.

Most of all a special thanks to the people who came to the show because without them to support the show it would be impossible to have these shows.

Thanks to all,
Bill Fellows
Air Show Chairman

Dear Mr. Editor:

The Labor Day week end has passed, and most of us remember the back-yard cookout, the day at the lake, or the meeting of old friends and family.

Two things remain in my mind about the weekend. The first was the success of the air show and, the second was the succcess of the efforts of several young men and women, who helped raise money for Muscular Dystrophy. The Concordia Jaycees sponsored several events including a car wash, a dunk stand, a horseshoe pitch, a canoe race, and the telethon for this area. The net results totaled three thousand one hundred thirty-eight dollars to be sent to M.D. to find a cure for this crippling disease. This would not have been possible if several merchants and individuals, in these hard economic times, would not have opened up their pockets to help their fellowman.

I think Concordia and the surrounding area needs to be proud of the positive attitude that was shown during this project. This proves that this area of Kansas is not ready to give up and we do care about others. I also feel that John Schmitt, the chairman of the M.D. Weekend, should be commended for his efforts.

Scientists now believe that they know what causes M.D. This shows once again that people working together with positive attitudes can make it happen.

Keith S. Christensen
President
The Concordia Jaycees

9-17-82

# This and that around town

The Concordia Jaycees are to be commended for their efforts in raising more than $3,000.00 for Muscular Dystrophy over the Labor Day Weekend.

They staged a number of activities and events in addition to operating a pledge center during the 24-hour period.

The most successful event was a free car wash which raised $1,863.00. A number of Concordia merchants pledged five cents for each car the Jaycees washed during the 24-hour marathon. There were probably a lot of aching backs and sore hands when the Jaycees finished the last of 505 cars that they washed.

The success of the program demonstrates again what can be accomplished by a group of young people working toward a common goal. The Jaycees should take pride in their achievement and feel confident that they can achieve success in other undertakings which will benefit the community.

.....

Construction activities in downtown Concordia are beginning to pick up steam this week. Curbing has been poured along a portion of the west end of the project and other areas are nearing that phase of construction. It is interesting to watch the different approaches to the project by the three contractors. It just shows that there is more than one way to skin a cat or something like that.

.....

Incidentally, in case you missed it everything is going to be up to date in downtown Concordia. The city commissioners have authorized the purchase of new traffic signals. The city planned to install new signals over a period of time, but decided it would be more practical to install them at the same time the reconstruction work is being done. This will save having to break up the freshly poured concrete around the traffic signal locations to install new conduit and signal pedestals and posts.

City manager Carl Metzger also said that the old signals are becoming so obsolete that finding parts to repair them is becoming next to impossible. The new signals which have been ordered are mechanically operated and it is hoped that they will not become obsolete as fast as solid state signals with printed circuits.

# City will buy new signals

The Concordia city commissioners yesterday authorized the purchase of $36,671.00 worth of new traffic signals for the downtown area.

City manager Carl Metzger said that after a study of the condition of the traffic signals in the downtown area was completed about a year ago it was decided to initiate a phased improvement of signals over a period of five years. However, he said, deferal of this activity would pose problems because of the new construction now taking place. Doing the work simultaneously with the other construction activities downtown will eliminate prolonged inconvenience to businesses and to pedestrian and vehicular traffic, he said. It also reduces the cost because no additional money is needed for sidewalk repair to areas included in the downtown improvement project, he explained.

Metzger said that all traffic signals in the central business district will be replaced. New pedestals for pole bases will be built, new traffic control cable laid, new poles placed, new signal heads installed, and a master controller installed to synchronize all lights on Sixth and Seventh Streets, Metzger said.

The commissioners also approved a new city policy on curb and gutter replacement to encourage residents to become involved in the process of upgrading the curbs and gutters in the community.

Under the provisions of the new policy the city will tear out existing curb and gutter and prepare the site for new curb and gutter to be poured. The resident can either contract to have the concerete work done or do the work himself provided the specification established by the city are followed, Metzger explained.

In conjunction with the new policy the city commissioners authorized $20,000 for 1982 to be used as the city's share of curb and gutter projects. The city will entertain petitions for curb and gutter work until the $20,000 is exhausted.

City manager Carl Metzger said that the city has been studying the problem of repairing and replacing deteriorating curb and gutter throughout the community for several years. He said a recent study of the problem indicated that it would cost the city between $3 and $5 million to repair and rehabilitate the deteriorated and damaged curbs and gutters in the community.

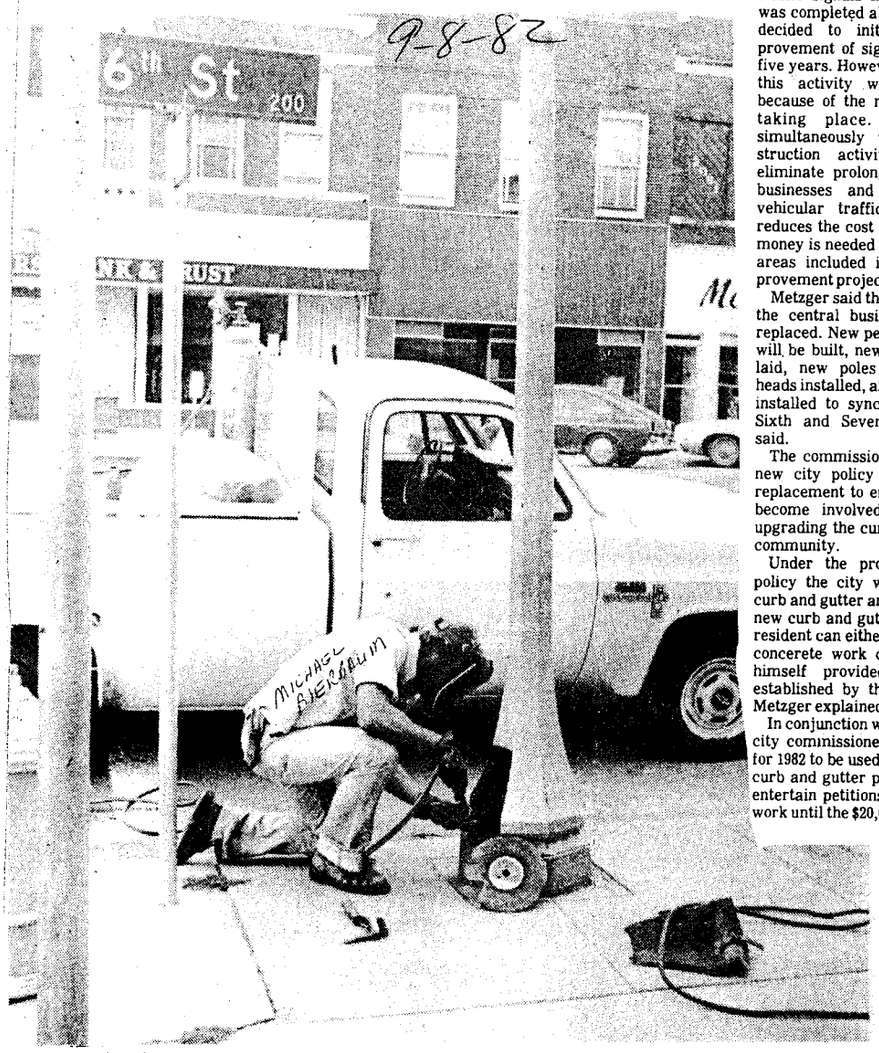
Metzger said that the study confirmed the size of the problem and the inability of the city-at-large to finance a project of this magnitude. As a result the new policy was conceived with the hope that it would promote the idea of the city and the property owner sharing the cost of the needed improvement.

Metzger said that the replacement of curb and gutter will be eligible for long-term city financing just as a street or alley improvement project. However, repair work involving patching or small amounts of reconstruction will not be eligible for city financing, he said.

The commissioners authorized the final costs of new curb and gutter project from 18th Street to Peck Avenue. The final cost was $3,949.00.

The commissioners also authorized the submission of a 1982 Community Development Block Grant in the amount of $812,500.00. Metzger said that as in the past the major emphasis of the program will be to address the housing needs of the low and moderate income family.

Metzger said that block grant program this year will also place emphasis on economic development. The two activities being proposed by the city in the application will be the rehabilitation of thirty units of single family housing and make needed water line improvements to the distribution system in east Concordia, Metzger said. One other area of high priority activity in the grant application will be the construction of storm sewers in the southeast quadrant of the community, he added.




***No traffic signals***

Most of the traffic signals in the downtown area have been removed by city crews as part of the downtown redevelopment project. City manager Carl Metzger said the signals would be out until the majority of the project is completed in November. He said that new signal heads with bigger red lights would be installed when the signals are put back in place. The signals on the two west blocks of the project will be moved out onto pedestrian crosswalk islands. (Blade photo by Chris Black)

9-16-82

# Replacing Downtown Traffic Control Signals

Concordia will have new traffic control signals in the central business district and they will be installed during the downtown improvement project, according to action taken Wednesday afternoon at the city commission meeting. Estimated cost is set at $36,671 or $917 for each new traffic signal including new wiring controls and poles.

City Manager Carl Metzger said that a year ago the city staff began a study of the condition of traffic control signals in the downtown area, at 11th and Lincoln, and 11th and Cedar. The condition of signal heads, controliers, and signal wiring was analyzed and an inventory of needed replacement prepared.

Except for the signals at Sixth and Lincoln, all other traffic signals and controllers are wearing out, he told commissioners. Many of them are over 20 years old and in some cases, the repair parts needed are obsolete.

Metzger said, initially, a phased improvement of signals was contemplated over a period of five years. However, the downtown improvement project schedule and scheduled repairs to 6th street next year caused the staff to re-evaluate and the result was an accelerated replacement program.

All traffic signals in the central business district will be replaced including new pedestals for pole bases, new traffic control cable laid, new poles, new signal heads installed, and a master controller installed to synchronize all lights on 6th and 7th streets.

Metzger advised that deferral of the project posed a problem because areas of new construction would have to be torn up in order to accomplish the signal replacement program. "Doing the work simultaneously with the other construction activities downtown will eliminate prolonged inconvenience to businesses, pedestrian and vehicular traffic. It also reduces the cost because no additional money is needed for sidewalk repair and repair to areas included in the beautification project."

The new signals will be electro-mechanical rather than solid state construction. Some parts of the old signals, removed last week, will be interchanable with the new signals.

### Adopt Curb Repair Policy

The city commission also passed a resolution establishing a policy concerning repair or replacement of curbs and guttering in the city. The policy should promote the idea of the city and property owners sharing the costs of needed improvemtnts.

Property owners may continue to have this work done privately or petition the city individually or collectively from a particular area or block, and the city will contract the work done. The landowner's portion of expense could be added to property taxes over a ten-year period.

Repair work involving patching and small amounts of reconstruction would not be eligible for long term financing or special assessment.

All repairs and replacements must conform to specifications prepared or approved by the city engineer.

**As an incentive to encourage curb replacement, the city will saw-cut the old curb and guttering, remove the old material, and patch the asphalt adjacent to the new concrete. The city commission established a maximum of $20,000 for the first year under the new policy. The amount is the city-at-large share of replacement which includes removal of the old concrete and asphalt patching after the new concrete has been installed.**

Another advantage of the policy is that it is voluntary. Under the new policy it is feasible for one property owner to request curb replacement without having more than 50% of the property owners in the block agreeing to the improvement.

City Manager Metzger pointed out the city staff began in 1978 studying the problem of curb and gutter replacement. At that time the estimated cost was $2 million. In 1981, another study was made. Curbs and guttering continued to deteriorate and inflation caused a higher figure—estimated now at between $3 and $5 million to replace all bad or broken curbs and gutter.

Commissioner Lee Doyen said he did not believe the city residents would approve such a large city-at-large bond issue to do the needed work. He added that the city is providing some incentitive to encourage homeowners to do the repairs with city assistance.

### Other Business

In other business, the city commission authorized the city staff to submit and application requesting a 1982 Community Development Block Grant totaling $812,500. The application will be sent to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

City Manager Metzger said the major emphasis of this program is to address the housing needs of the low and moderate income families. However, this year an additional program emphasis has been added—economic development.

The activities proposed in the application includes rehabilitation of 30 units of single family housing, make needed water line improvements such as tying in the southeast water tower to the industrial park, and expanding storm sewer reconstruction.

The application will be submitted to HUD by Oct. 1 and the city should know sometime in November if the application will be funded. Metzger advised he felt the city had a better than 50% chance of receiving funds due to Concordia's past performance on administering the funds.

The commission approved the final cost of $3,949 for the new curb and gutter on Republican street between 18th and Peck Ave. The original estimate was $3,970 on the project which is now completed.

A commission study session was scheduled for Sept. 23 at 4 p.m.

# One-half Block Added To Downtown Project

9-2-82

At the request of a downtown property owner, a one-half block area has been added to the downtown improvement project. The work was added to the project at Wednesday's Concordia City Commission meeting.

The petition was received from First Bank and Trust requesting the removal of sidewalk, curb and gutter on the west side of Washington Street between 6th street and the alley—the area adjacent to the bank's downtown facility (former Fidelity Bank). The petition also calls for new sidewalk, curbing and guttering at an estimated cost of $13,293. The city-at-large share of the work is $6,598.54 (49.6%) and the benefit district's share (First Bank) is $6,694.46 (50.4%).

City Manager Carl Metzger explained the larger than normal city's share is due to the city's storm sewer that runs in this area and a portion of the sidewalk serves as a cap to the sewer. The city also pays for replacement of the curb and gutter.

Other action at the commission meeting included a number of routine financial matters. First Bank and Trust, the sole bidder, was awarded temporary note financing on four improvement projects either near completion or underway. In each case the bank's average annual interest rate is 8.73%, reported the city manager.

The notes and amounts were for the following projects: new curb and guttering just south of 18th and Republican, $3,970; new alley in Block 47 (block where the Wesleyan Church is located) $9,360; downtown improvement project on 6th from Lincoln to Broadway, $66,715; and the downtown project from Broadway to State, $218,984.

The commission approved a resolution expressing its intention to cooperate with Saline County for the purpose of developing and implementing a single family housing finance program. The mortgage revenue bond program is identical to one the city endorsed in February, 1980 except Saline County is the lead county in the new program. A total of 16 counties in this area of Kansas are invited to participate. The city financial institutions can now participate in the program since the city has approved their portion of the requirements.

The commission took action assessing the cost of cutting weeds at two locations owned by Marjetta Williams. One was at 124 W. 17th (Block 27), and the other at 330 W. 2nd (Block 177). The cost of $42.50 on each property will be certified to the county clerk and placed on the property tax rolls against each property. However, both properties are already listed on the county's delinquent real estate tax roll.

A city commission study session was set for Sept. 9 at 4 p.m.


**It's Your Choice**

**Repeal the Intagibles Tax!**

**Reduce Property Taxes**

**Vote YES for the ½c Sales Tax**

This Adv. Paid for by Concerned Citizens
Kent Ferman, Concordia, Chm.
Kansan-10-25-82


# Police Officer Discovers Fire Early Saturday

Concordia Police Officer R. J. Lowell was on patrol about 1 a.m. Saturday and noticed smoke coming from the Broadway Lounge between 4th and 5th on Broadway. The fire department was notified and responded and they were able to contain the blaze within the building. Most of the damage was from smoke, reports Police Chief Dennis Rohr.

Cause of the fire appeared to be an overloaded electrical receptacle. A state fire marshall investigated the fire Saturday.

10-28-82 Kansan

**kansas**

# Alkire retires after 32 years

Capt. Harold Alkire is retiring after 32 years of service to the Concordia police department, according to an announcement made by police chief Dennis Rohr.

Rohr said that Alkire, who recently turned 61, will be retiring a year earlier than anticipated because of health problems.

Alkire, who was born in Concordia, joined the Concordia police department on April 1, 1950. He recalls that at the time there were only three police officers and they all worked seven days a week and were subject to call when off duty.

He said that at the time there were no radios in the police cars and that unless one of the officers was at the station, telephone calls would be directed to the telephone operator. If the police were needed, he said, the telephone operator would activate signal lights at 6th and Broadway and 6th and Washington. When the officers would see the lights on, they would contact the operator to find out the nature of the call, he explained. "All too often the emergency would be over by the time the police were notified," he explained.

Alkire said he began his service under the direction of Francis Swafford. "Francis was an old-time officer who was well known for using blood hounds to track down criminals and for using the boot to kick the pants of those who did not heed his warnings," Alkire said.

During his 32 years of service Alkire can remember pulling his gun only twice. One time, he said, was when three burglary suspects were cornered near 7th and Lincoln and were taken into custody. The other time was when he was attacked by a crazed man who slashed at him with a beer opener.

Captain Alkire observed that police work has changed considerably since he joined the force. "It takes so much more training and education to be a police officer then in past years," he said. Alkire said that years ago, when they had a suspect they wanted to question they simply picked him up and brought him in for questioning. Now the officer has to be extra careful with the way he handles a suspect or he might get into more trouble than the suspect, he explained.

Alkire said that after he stablizes his health problem he plans to travel, do lots of fishing, and spend time with his grandchildren. He and his wife, Ruth, have a son, Mike, who is a police officer in McPherson. Their daughter, Ann, also lives in McPherson.

Alkire was born in Concordia. He served three and one half years in New Guinea during World War II. After the war he returned to Concordia to work as a truck driver and with the Missouri Pacific Railroad before joining the police force.

Alkire has always been interested in serving the community and appreciates the many people he has known and the times spent as a law enforcement officer.

Capt. Alkire is the fourth person to retire from the Concordia police department. Others retiring from the department have been Francis Swafford, Bill Krasny and Ray Liedtke, according to Rohr.

Harold Alkire

# New police officer hired

Police Chief Dennis Rohr today announced that David Hawley has been hired to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Capt. Harold Alkire on the police force.

Hawley, 22, is from Berryton, Kan. and has been a member of the Shawnee County Sheriff's Reserve force. Hawley was one of 18 applicants for the position. Eight applicants passed the written test and physical examination. After background checks were conducted, oral interviews were given before a board of four officers. Hawley will begin work on Oct. 18.

Rohr said that with the retirement of Alkire there will be some changes in department responsibilities. Sgt. Gerry Brown, Sgt. Steve Horkman and Lt. Gene Ziegenbalg will be assigned shift commander positions and will jointly assume responsibilities previously held by Capt. Alkire. Det. Sam Budreau will assume responsibility for all investigations and other associated responsibilities.

Rohr said the change will utilize the department's manpower and provide for greater efficiency. He added that greater burden is placed on a department of our size because of limitations of manpower and the wide range of public expectations that must be met. "We are all general practitioners and attempt to do a good job of providing public service," he said.

Lt. Ziegenbalg, Sgt. Brown, Sgt. Horkman, and Det. Budreau all have 10 or more years of experience and have adequate training and experience to handle most situations, Rohr said.

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

9-30-82

'JUNIOR' ALKIRE, a 32-year veteran of the Concordia Police Department. —Photo by Wm. DeArmond

# Captain Alkire Retires After 32 Years as Police Officer

Police Captain Harold "Junior" Alkire is retiring from the Concordia Police Department after providing 32 years of service, according to an announcement made today by Police Chief Dennis Rohr. Capt. Alkire, who recently turned 61, said he is retiring a year earlier than anticipated due to health reasons.

Capt. Alkire was born and raised in Concordia. He served three and one-half years in New Guinea during World War II, after which he returned to Concordia to work as a truck driver and with the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He joined the Concordia Police Department on April 1, 1950.

In those days there were only three officers on the police department and they worked seven days a week besides being subject to call when off duty. The police cars did not have radios in 1950 and unless one of the officers was at the station, telephone calls would be directed to the telephone operator. If the police were needed, the telephone operator would activate signal lights at 6th and Broadway and 6th and Washington. Upon seeing the lights on, the officers would contact the operator to find out the nature of the call. All too often the emergency would be over by the time the police were notified, Alkire remembers.

In recalling other memories of the past, Capt. Alkire remembers starting as a new officer under the direction of Francis Swafford. "Francis was an old-time officer who was well-known for using blood hounds to track down criminals and for using the boot to kick the pants of those who did not heed his warnings."

Capt. Alkire remembers pulling his gun on someone twice in his career. One time occurred when three burglars were cornered near 7th and Lincoln and were taken into custody. The other time was when he was attacked by a crazed man who slashed at him with a beer can opener.

The retiree said that police work has changed considerably. "It takes so much more training and education to be a police officer than in years past." Alkire explains that years ago, when they had a suspect they wanted to question they simply picked him up and brought him in for questioning. Now the officer has to be extra careful with the way he handles a suspect or he might get into more trouble than the suspect, he explained.

Alkire said that after he stablizes his health problem he plans to travel, do lots of fishing, and spend time with his grandchildren. He and his wife, Ruth, have a son, Mike, who is a police officer in McPherson. Their daughter, Ann, who also lives in McPherson.

Capt. Alkire said that he was always interested in being of service to his community and appreciates the many people he has known and the times spent as a law officer.

Alkire is the fourth officer to retire from the Concordia Police Department. Others retiring previously were Francis Swafford, Bill Krasny, and Ray Liedtke.

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DAVID HAWLEY HIRED AS OFFICER

Chief Rohr also announces the hiring of David Hawley to fill the vacancy on the police force created by the retirement of Capt. Alkire. Rohr said he received 18 applications for the position.

Hawley is 22 years of age and is from Berryton, Kan. He was a member of the Shawnee sheriff reserve force.

Chief Rohr said that of the 18 applicants, eight persons passed the test and physical exam. After background checks were conducted and oral interviews before a board of four officers, it was decided that Hawley would be the best qualified for the position. Hawley will begin work on Oct. 18.

Chief Rohr reports that the position of police captain will not be filled and there will be a change in the division responsibilities. Lt. Gene Ziegenbalg, Sgt. Gerry Brown, Sgt. Steve Horkman and Detective Sam Budreau have been with the department for ten years or more, and have adequate training and experience to handle most situations. Sgt. Brown, Sgt. Horkman, and Lt. Ziegenbalg will be assigned shift commander positions and they will jointly assume the responsibilities previously held by Alkire. Detective Budreau will assume responsibility for all investigations with other associated responsibilities.

The change will better utilize the department's manpower and provide for greater efficiency. Chief Rohr said that greater burden is placed on a department of our size due to the limitations of manpower and the broad areas of public expectations that must be met. We are all general practioners and do a [illegible] providing public

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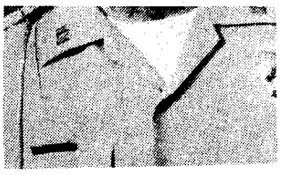

Harold Alkire

# New police officer hired

Police Chief Dennis Rohr today announced that David Hawley has been hired to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Capt. Harold Alkire on the police force.

Hawley, 22, is from Berryton, Kan. and has been a member of the Shawnee County Sheriff's Reserve force. Hawley was one of 18 applicants for the position. Eight applicants passed the written test and physical examination. After background checks were conducted, oral interviews were given before a board of four officers. Hawley will begin work on Oct. 18.

Rohr said that with the retirement of Alkire there will be some changes in department responsibilities. Sgt. Gerry Brown, Sgt. Steve Horkman and Lt. Gene Ziegenbalg will be assigned shift commander positions and will jointly assume responsibilities previously held by Capt. Alkire. Det. Sam Budreau will assume responsibility for all investigations and other associated responsibilities.

Rohr said the change will utilize the department's manpower and provide for greater efficiency. He added that greater burden is placed on a department of our size because of limitations of manpower and the wide range of public expectations that must be met. "We are all general practitioners and attempt to do a good job of providing public service," he said.

Lt. Ziegenbalg, Sgt. Brown, Sgt. Horkman, and Det. Budreau all have 10 or more years of experience and have adequate training and experience to handle most situations, Rohr said.

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

Alkire is retiring from the Concordia Police Department after providing 32 years of service, according to an announcement made today by Police Chief Dennis Rohr. Capt. Alkire, who recently turned 61, said he is retiring a year earlier than anticipated due to health reasons.

Capt. Alkire was born and raised in Concordia. He served three and one-half years in New Guinea during World War II, after which he returned to Concordia to work as a truck driver and with the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He joined the Concordia Police Department on April 1, 1950.

In those days there were only three officers on the police department and they worked seven days a week besides being subject to call when off duty. The police cars did not have radios in 1950 and unless one of the officers was at the station, telephone calls would be directed to the telephone operator. If the police were needed, the telephone operator would activate signal lights at 6th and Broadway and 6th and Washington. Upon seeing the lights on, the officers would contact the operator to find out the nature of the call. All too often the emergency would be over by the time the police were notified, Alkire remembers.

In recalling other memories of the past, Capt. Alkire remembers starting as a new officer under the direction of Francis Swafford. "Francis was an old-time officer who was well-known for using blood hounds to track down criminals and for using the boot to kick the pants of those who did not heed his warnings."

Capt. Alkire remembers pulling his gun on someone twice in his career. One time occurred when three burglars were cornered near 7th and Lincoln and were taken into custody. The other time was when he was attacked by a crazed man who slashed at him with a beer can opener.

The retiree said that police work has changed considerably. "It takes so much more training and education to be a police officer than in years past." Alkire explains that years ago, when they had a suspect they wanted to question they simply picked him up and brought him in for questioning. Now the officer has to be extra careful on how he handles criminals for he might get into more trouble than the criminal.

Regarding his retirement plans, Alkire said that after stabilizing his health problem he intends to travel, do lots of fishing, and spend time with his grandchildren. "Junior" and his wife Ruth have a son, Mike, a police officer in McPherson, and a daughter.

Capt. Alkire said that he was always interested in being of service to his community and appreciates the many people he has known and the times spent as a law officer.

Alkire is the fourth officer to retire from the Concordia Police Department. Others retiring previously were Francis Swafford, Ed Koenig, and Ray Liedtke.

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## DAVID HAWLEY HIRED AS OFFICER

Chief Rohr also announces the hiring of David Hawley to fill the vacancy on the police force created by the retirement of Capt. Alkire. Rohr said he received 18 applications for the position.

Hawley is 22 years of age and is from Berryton, Kan. He was a member of the Shawnee sheriff reserve force.

Chief Rohr said that of the 18 applicants, eight persons passed the test and physical exam. After background checks were conducted and oral interviews before a board of four officers, it was decided that Hawley would be the best qualified for the position. Hawley will begin work on Oct. 18.

Chief Rohr reports that the position of police captain will not be filled and there will be a change in the division responsibilities. Lt. Gene Ziegenbalg, Sgt. Gerry Brown, Sgt. Steve Horkman and Detective Sam Budreau have been with the department for ten years or more and have adequate training and experience to handle most situations. Sgt. Brown, Sgt. Horkman, and Lt. Ziegenbalg will be assigned shift commander positions and they will jointly assume the responsibilities previously held by Alkire. Detective Budreau will assume responsibility for all investigations with other associated responsibilities.

The change will better utilize the department's manpower and provide for greater efficiency. Chief Rohr said that greater burden is placed on a department of our size due to the limitations of manpower and the broad areas of public expectations that must be met. We are all general practioners and do a good job of providing public service.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I have lived in Concordia for more than 50 years. And I have always willingly paid my taxes and utilities to the city.

A couple of months ago when we had the heavy rains that put houses on 19th and Broadway in danger of getting water damage from Blossers pond, I had at least a foot of water in my yard which is located at 17th and Broadway.

The water came from the open storm sewer that runs from 17th street to 13th street. The water that came through my yard washed all of the gravel from my driveway. It also ruined my garden and killed several fruit trees.

I have tried to talk to the people at City Hall about this problem. But either they don't understand the problem, or perhaps they don't believe that there is one.

I'm sure not an engineer, but I believe that the ditch is filled in with silt and gravel and when we get an inch or so of rain it backs up into my yard. Also the weeds on this ditch average about eight feet tall and this probably also restricts the flow of the water.

I would appreciate it if whoever is in charge of problems such as this would at least come to my home and look te situation over and see what can be done to help.

Thank you,
Mrs. James E. Hale

9-10-82

9-24-82

# Greener parks next spring

Concordia public parks have always been attractive and this year has been no exception. It takes a lot of effort to keep the parks in prime condition and during the past several weeks city crews have been busy sprucing up the parks and doing late summer and early fall maintenance.

Last year the city bought a machine to overseed the grass in city parks. The overseeding program should revitalize the grass in the parks and make them even nicer next spring. Several areas have been completely reseeded this fall.

City crews also will be resurfacing the tennis courts, probably next week if the weather holds. When the work is completed Concordia will have perhaps the jazziest courts for miles around. The playing surface again will be green with white lines; however, new red border surface will be put down giving Concordia three colored courts.

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Speaking of sports, Wichita State has a chance to win the second leg of the Kansas triple crown football series. The Shockers defeated the University of Kansas in the opening game of the triple crown and now need only a victory over the K-State Wildcats Saturday to have bragging rights to Kansas. However, from our vantage point we see a Wildcat victory Saturday. Then on Oct. 23 when K.U. and K-State play in Manhattan we are predicting a Jayhawk victory. This would give each team a one loss, one win record and no one except the fans will be the winners.

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Also on sports the NFL players strike is for real. A lot has been said and written about the strike and much more will be. Sure we will miss some of the games, particularly one like the game between the Chiefs and the Falcons which was to be televised last night. But as far as we're concerned you can tell the owners and the players for us, "Frankly, Scarlet, we don't give a damn."

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Another sports item on the front pages of the papers this week has been the approval by Oklahoma voters of pari-mutuel betting in their state. Apparently, this has encouraged Kansas wagering enthusiasts to try once again to get the question on the ballot in Kansas. This is another issue which gives us little blood pressure. However, it does seem only just that the issue should be placed on the ballot for the voters to decide. Who knows, we might even like the idea of placing a $2 bet on Rev. Taylor to win. Rev. Taylor is a quarterhorse owned by Chuck Henry, a pari-mutuel advocate from Augusta and named after the Rev. Richard Taylor, former Concordian and now head of the Kansans for Life at Its Best.

9-9-82

***Work progressing***

**Ron Gerard of Logan Construction watches while an employee of Kansas Concrete Cutting Co. cuts the concrete in the 100 block on East Sixth Street. After the concrete is cut a jack-hammer is used to break away the old curb and gutter as the first step of the project which will include new sidewalks and asphalt overlay on Sixth Street. (Blade photo by Chris Black)**

## Vandalism reported

10-

Three acts of vandalism have been reported to the Concordia police department.

Gwen Haney, 729 E. 8th, reported that a window in her home was broken sometime yesterday. A rock was thrown through the window and damage is estimated at $25.00.

Lillie Cook, 601 W. 9th, reported that a green tomato was thrown into a storm window breaking the glass. Damage is estimated at $20.00.

Shirley Henthorn, 421 E. 12th, reported that a rock was thrown through a bedroom window at her home shortly after midnight last night. The screen and glass panes were broken. Damage was estimated to be $75.00.

The police department also clarified an accident report concerning Nina Mooney. The Mooney vehicle was going north on Highway 81 near the viaduct when the rear wheels of a passing semi struck the side of the Mooney vehicle.

10-13-82

10-18-82

***Dusting for prints***

**Concordia police chief Dennis Rohr this morning was dusting a cash drawer at the Blade-Empire office for fingerprints. The Blade was burglarized during the weekend and nearly $300.00 in cash and camera equipment valued at $800.00 was taken. (Blade photo by Chris Black)**

# Burglaries reported to Concordia police

Two burglaries and two thefts have been reported to the Concordia police department.

The police believe that the two burglaries happened either Saturday night or early Sunday morning. They also believe that the burglaries were done by the same person or persons.

The largest loss happened at the Blade-Empire office where nearly $300.00 in cash, several cameras and some miscellaneous items were taken. Most of the cash was taken from the safe. Value of the camera equipment was placed at $800.00. Entry into the building was gained through a side door.

The other burglary occurred at the Cooperative Service Association station at 4th and Broadway. The north door on the new building was pried open and an estimated $10.00 in loose change was taken from a change box.

Austin Huscher, 1216 Broadway, reported to police that Friday night several extension cords and a hedge trimmer were taken from a shed near his residence. The items were later recovered in a yard at 1116 Broadway.

Bill Crum, 916 W. 16th, reported to police that three fishing rods and reels and a large red tool chest were taken from his garage Friday night. Estimate of the loss was placed at between $100.00 and $200.00.

## Theft, vandalism reported

10-19-82

Nancy Sherffius, 119 E. 9th, has reported to the police that her car was sprayed with white shoe polish last weekend.

Marty McGeoch, 128 W. 10th, has reported to the police that approximately $75.00 worth of tools were stolen from his pickup truck while it was parked behind his residence Saturday night.

## Accident, theft reported

10-11-82

Nina Mooney, 611 E. 12th, was involved in a property damage accident yesterday near the intersection of 6th and Lincoln when her vehicle came in contact with the rear tire of a semi truck, according to the police department. About $400 worth of damage was done to her vehicle.

The theft of a door mat from Love's Country Store has been reported to the police department. The mat is 3' x 4', brown, red, yellow and orange with a Love's Country Store emblem.

## Registration books close

Voters are reminded that tomorrow is the last day to register to vote in the general election. Books will close until after the election. Voters need to register if there is a change in name or address. Concordia voters may register at the City Hall or with the County Clerk at the Courthouse.

10-11-82

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

# Crime down

10-4-82

Vandalism in Concordia increased in September as compared to September of last year, but overall the number of reported crimes was down from a year ago, according to statistics released by police chief Dennis Rohr today.

Ten cases of misdemeanor vandalism amounting to a $318 loss were reported this September as compared to seven cases last year with a loss of $350. One case of felony vandalism with a loss of $690 was reported last September, while three cases amounting to $568 were reported this year.

There were five cases of misdemeanor theft reported both last September and this September. The estimated loss this September amounted to $235 as compared to $256 last year. There were only four felony thefts reported amounting to $790 in losses this September as compared to seven cases amounting to $1,550 in losses last September.

There were no burglaries reported this September, one burglary amounting to $200 was reported last September.

There was one forgery case reported this year amounting to an $80 loss while last September there were three reported cases of forgery amounting to $210 in losses.

There were a total of 23 reported crimes in September of this year amounting to losses estimated at $1,991, while last September, 24 cases were reported amounting to an estimated $3,256 in losses.

Chief Rohr also reported that the police department cleared four theft cases and one forgery case this September. There were also five cases reported to the police that were unfounded, he said.

## Concordia forecast

**Forecast for Concordia and vicinity: Mostly clear tonight. Lows in the mid 50s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 miles per hour. Fair and warm Tuesday. Highs in the low to mid 80s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 miles per hour.**

## Fire, theft reported

The Concordia police department reports that a stack of lumber behind Concordia Lumber Co. caught fire Saturday evening.

The police department reports that there is a strong indication that the protective covering over the lumber was purposely set on fire.

The police department also reports that Robert H. Kliewer, 1114 Lincoln, has reported that his son's 10-speed bicycle was taken and badly damaged. The bike was found in 1400 block on State Street. The bike was taken sometime Friday evening. Estimate of the damage is $60.00.

# Burglaries solved

10-19-82

The Concordia police department has cleared up burglaries at the Cooperative Service Association station and the Blade-Empire which occurred during the weekend, according to police chief Dennis Rohr.

Chief Rohr said that most of the property and part of the money taken in the two incidents has been recovered and that four juveniles have been implicated in the burglaries. Their ages are 12 to 14, he said.

Chief Rohr said that information coming from Kendall Martin assisted police in solving the burglaries. He said that Martin reported to the police that he had observed four juveniles acting suspiciously around his Camera Shop. Martin was able to identify one of the boys, Rohr added.

Rohr said that this information provided police with an important lead to solving the burglaries.

"When citizens report suspicious activity," Rhor said, "our jobs are made easier and those prone to commit crimes know that other eyes may be watching."

Nearly $200.00, two cameras, and a flash attachment were taken from the Blade office. About $10 in loose change was taken from the Coop station.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just the past few days we have had the unpleasant opportunity to observe our local law enforcement and judicial system at work. Needless to say we are very disappointed at the amateur tactics used.

As most of you are aware our son Scott was arrested Thursday, Sept. 16, 1982, on two charges of selling a non-controlled substance for a controlled substance. A so called Fake drug. A misdemeanor charge.

The criminal act was supposedly made at the "Senior Party" being held southeast of Concordia on May 21, 1982.

Scott left for the army on May 31, 1982, going to Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. A warrant for his arrest was issued Aug. 12, 1982. He was home over Labor Day weekend on a three day pass. No arrest was made.

Scott arrived home Wednesday morning, Sept. 15, to get ready for his wedding Saturday, the 18th. He was staying with us. We received some phone calls Thursday asking if Scott was at home. Each time he was not, but was told we could have him call if a number was given. On the third call he was asked to call 243-3636. In the meantime Scott heard the police were looking for him. He proceeded to the law enforcement building where he was arrested. He was read his rights and given a choice of jail or fine.

Due to the timing of his arrest on Thursday he chose to pay the fine so they could be married on Saturday and leave for Ft. Benning, Georgia, on the following Monday. In talking with Scott afterwards naturally the first question we asked him was, are you guilty? He answered, absolutely not! The next question we asked him was, would you take a lie detector test? He answered, I sure will. The next question we asked was, why did you plead guilty? He answered, due to timing there is no way I can stay here and go to court. We contacted a lawyer and were told if Scott had already pleaded guilty there wasn't anything we could do.

I (Ed) personally attended court being held on another young Concordia man the past few days. His charges stem from the same "Senior Party" on the following day. He is accused of selling the same fake drugs as they are called, with a value of eighty cents to a State of Kansas informer.

In case you have never witnessed court being held on cases like this, the undercover agents or informer as they are called, in nearly all cases have a criminal record and are on probation. To our knowledge none of the young people being tried have any prior conviction.

We believe the arresting of the kids is being used as a decoy to have people think the law is doing something to stop the drug problem. If it takes this kind of tactics to keep our law officers busy we would suggest firing a few and putting the rest to work on something constructive. We believe a good amount of this time and money could be well spent on arresting the "real" drug dealers and the person or persons who committed the murders. There is nothing we would rather see than all the drug pushers caught and prosecuted and the solving of the murders of three young people of this community. We believe if some of the efforts of this unprofessional type of law enforcement were used to try and solve criminal acts such as these, people would at least feel they were getting more for their tax dollars.

The cost of court being held on cases such as these is very expensive to the taxpayer. Wages for the Judge, Bailiff, County Attorney, Assistant Attorney, KBI man from Great Bend who had the pills analyzed, jurors, motel room and meals for the State of Kansas informers, just to name a few.

Many people wonder why so many young people leave our community. We don't know all the answers but can think of several reasons.

We think there are a lot of unanswered questions and we intend to get them answered.

Sincerely,
Edward E. Yoxall
Elaine Yoxall

10-1-82

## CONCORDIA, KS. 10-13-82
## TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT

For the Period from July 1, 1982 to September 30, 1982

| FUNDS | OLD BALANCES | RECEIPTS | DISBURSEMENTS (WARRANTS PAID) | NEW BALANCES |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| General | 210,417.73 | 381,270.20 | 237,417.07 | 354,270.86 |
| Library | 4,206.33 | 21,822.45 | 21,200.00 | 4,828.78 |
| Recreation | 233.57 | 8,728.97 | 7,400.00 | 1,562.54 |
| Industrial | 5,235.39 | 1,818.51 | 302.40 | 6,751.50 |
| Noxious Weed | 2,970.37 | -0- | 542.50 | 2,427.87 |
| Special Highway | 9,005.41 | 18,252.11 | 12,698.97 | 14,558.55 |
| Federal Revenue Sharing | 15,390.24 | 12,063.00 | 9,549.57 | 17,903.67 |
| Parking Meter | 10,254.82 | -0- | -0- | 10,254.82 |
| Fire Equipment Reserve | 13.11 | -0- | 13.11 | -0- |
| Employee Benefit Fund | 33,325.11 | 72,507.15 | 53,048.85 | 52,783.41 |
| Special Utility Fund | 28,189.70 | 32,003.60 | 21,014.05 | 39,179.25 |
| Special Park & Rec. | 5,422.87 | 2,669.43 | 95.00 | 7,997.30 |
| Special Alcohol Fund | 19,219.11 | 2,569.43 | 2,743.30 | 19,145.24 |
| Community Develop. '81 | 8,763.72 | 130,500.00 | 129,511.88 | 9,751.84 |
| Water Well Improv. | -15,776.23 | -0- | 3,921.58 | -19,697.81 |
| Valley Street Well | -874.97 | -0- | -0- | -874.97 |
| Railroad Crossing Imp. | 45,844.12 | -0- | 3,248.05 | 42,596.07 |
| Broadway Well | 10,569.40 | -0- | 571.69 | 9,997.71 |
| Joler Park Well | -6,442.23 | 45,611.52 | 35,748.27 | 3,421.02 |
| Sp. Fire & Amb. Equip. | -0- | 13.11 | -0- | 13.11 |
| Bond & Interest | 85,191.65 | 63,442.74 | 48,508.13 | 100,126.26 |
| Street Projects | 14,072.33 | -0- | 18,491.89 | -4,419.56 |
| Alley Projects | -0- | -0- | 41.18 | -41.18 |
| Water Line Projects | 508.77 | -0- | -0- | 508.77 |
| Sanitary Sewer Projects | 2,386.35 | -0- | -0- | 2,386.35 |
| Water/Sewer General | 22,014.14 | 170,094.24 | 145,065.90 | 47,042.48 |
| Water/Sewer Debt | 11,387.56 | 11,387.52 | 22,775.00 | .08 |
| Water/Sewer Reserve | 67,342.44 | 1,412.52 | -0- | 68,754.96 |
| Water Deposits Fund | 5,370.79 | 1,668.92 | 1,283.09 | 5,756.62 |
| Inventory Revolving | -109.46 | 9,907.88 | 7,783.78 | 2,014.64 |
| Clerk's Petty Cash | 200.00 | -0- | -0- | 200.00 |
| State Withholding | 4,469.00 | 5,738.90 | 4,469.00 | 5,738.90 |
| Airport Revolving | 10,391.46 | -0- | 71.07 | 10,320.39 |
| Cemetery Endowment | 35,831.00 | -0- | -0- | 35,831.00 |
| Cld. County Landfill | -0- | 11,462.00 | 11,462.00 | -0- |
| Payroll Fund | -0- | 244,910.92 | 244,910.92 | -0- |
| Sm. Animal Trust | 20,632.44 | 352.93 | -0- | 20,985.37 |
| Central Garage Rev. | -0- | 342.51 | 342.51 | -0- |
| TOTALS | 665,656.04 | 1,250,650.56 | 1,044,230.76 | 872,075.84 |

| Available Cash: | | Liabilities: | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cloud County Bank & Trust | 44,430.11 | Gen. Obligation Bonds | 938,500.00 |
| First Bank & Trust | 9,751.84 | W/S Reserve Bonds | 700,000.00 |
| Investments | 817,693.89 | Temporary Notes | 303,039.69 |
| Clerk's Cash | 200.00 | No-Fund Warrants | 91,000.00 |
| | 872,075.84 | | 2,032,539.69 |

I, Rebecca Leon, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.

Rebecca Leon

Rebecca Leon, City Treasurer

***Mayor signs proclamation*** 10-12-82

**Officers of B&PW watch as Mayor Gregory L. Hattan signs proclamation designating Oct. 17-23 Business Women's Week in Concordia. Standing, left to right, are Jolene Springer, president; Ethel Henthorne, vice president; Ruth Pailette, treasurer, and Margaret Balch, secretary. (Blade photo by Chris Black)**

**PROCLAMATION** 10-12-82

**By the Mayor**

**TO THE PEOPLE OF CONCORDIA, GREETINGS:**

WHEREAS, working women constitute over 43 million of the nation's workforce and are constantly striving to serve their communities, their states and their nation in civic and cultural programs; and

WHEREAS, major goals of business and professional women are to help create better conditions for business women through the study of social, education, economic and political problems; to help them be of greater service to their community; to further friendship with women throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, all of us are proud of their leadership in these many fields of endeavor:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DR. GREG HATTAN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, do hereby proclaim October 17 through 23, 1982, as

**BUSINESS WOMEN'S WEEK**

in Concordia, sponsored by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., and urge all citizens in the City of Concordia, all civic and fraternal groups, all educational associations, all news media and other community organizations to join in this salute to working women by encouraging and promoting the celebration of the achievements of all business and all professional women as they contribute daily to our economic, civic and cultural purposes.

DONE at the City Hall in Concordia, Kansas this 6th day of October, A. D., 1982

BY THE MAYOR GREGORY L. HATTAN

10-7-82

# City To Control Selling On Municipal Property

The Concordia City Commission took action Wednesday to regulate vending and selling on the public property in the city. City Manager Carl Metzger explained the proposed ordinance is a comprehensive set of procedures regulating sidewalk sales in the central business district and vending from motor vehicles anywhere in Concordia.

The new ordinance replaced existing regulations and adds licensing procedures for both sidewalk sales and selling from motor vehicles.

The new regulations, many of which were suggested by the Retail Division of the Chamber of Commerce about sidewalk sales, also covers truck sales city-wide. Following are some of the regulations:

—Allows individual businesses the option of conducting four sidewalk sales in addition to those scheduled through the Chamber of Commerce and approved by the city.

—Merchants holding sales under the above provision will be required to obtain a separate license for each sale.

—Licenses will cost $10 per day or $25 for a three-day sale.

—Sales will be regulated in the area bounded by 7th and 5th streets, and Cedar and Lincoln streets.

The portion of the ordinance covering vending from motor vehicles prohibits:

—Truck sales in the central business district except on those days designated by the city for city-wide sidewalk sales.

—Vending from a vehicle within the city whether on public or private property, will be subject to licensure ($10 per day or $25 for three days) and verification of state sales tax registration.

A petition was presented and approved requesting new curbing on the east side of State Street from 15th to 17th streets. The petition contained the signatures of 60% of the owners of the property. The improvement includes removal of the present asphalt curbing and replacing it with concrete. Estimated cost of the work is $10,565.28 with those in the benefit district paying all of the amount.

Another improvement petition was tabled pending additional cost information from the city engineer. It asks that the east side of Washington street from 6th to the alley be added to the downtown improvement project. The request is from First Bank and Trust, sole owner in the ½-block. The bank previously petitioned improvement of the west side of Washington adjacent to their downtown facility.

City service awards were presented by Mayor Greg Hattan. Steve Horkman was recognized for ten years of service to the city as police patrolman and sergeant of the Concordia Police Department. Cecil Dale, an equipment operator in the Street Department received a 25-year continous service award.

A retail cereal malt beverage license was approved for Dawn Oldham, doing business as Big Horn Lounge, 117 E. 6th (formerly known as Windy's Lounge).

Mayor Hattan signed two proclamations. One designates Oct. 17-23 as National Business and Professional Women's Club Week as requested by BPW members Jolene Springer, Margaret Balch, Ruth Pailette, and Ethel Henhorne. Tootsie Roll days was set for Saturday and Sunday, requested by Bill Henderson for the Knights of Columbus. Funds derived are used for retarded children.

A study session for commissioners was set for Oct. 14 at 4 p.m.

10-7-82

# City passes ordinance regulating street sales

The Concordia city commission yesterday approved an ordinance which regulates sidewalk sales in the central business district, limits the sale of merchandise from trucks in the central business district and requires a vending license for sales from motor vehicles.

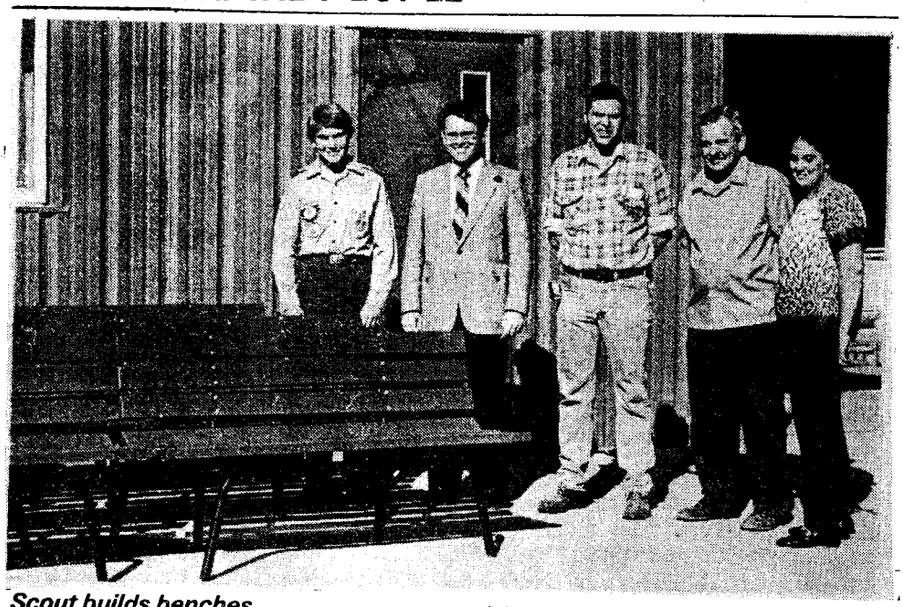
City manager Carl Metzger told the commissioners that the new ordinance was prepared at the request of the retail division of the Chamber of Commerce.

The new ordinance allows individual businesses in the central business district to have a maximum of four sidewalk sales in addition to those scheduled by the Chamber of Commerce. The ordinance, however, requires that the merchant sponsoring the sale must obtain a separate license for each sale at a cost of $10.00 per day or $25.00 for three days.

The commissioners approved the final costs and the levying of taxes for the curb and gutter project on Republican from 18th Street to Peck Avenue. The final cost of the project is $3,949.00 which will be paid 100 percent by the property owners in the benefit district.

The commissioners also approved a retail cereal malt beverage license for Dawn Oldham, doing business as the Big Horn Lounge at 117 E. 6th.

BLADE-EMPIRE PEOPLE 10-15-82 Concordia, Kansas



***Scout builds benches***

**Andy Mosher, left, yesterday presented six park benches to the City of Concordia. Also pictured are, left to right, Carl Metzger, Bob Ballard, and Andy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mosher. (Blade photo by Chris Black)**

# Scout adds to pedestrian comfort

Andy Mosher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mosher, Concordia, put much thought into his Community Service project which was the final one before he could receive his Eagle Scout Award. He thought he would like to provide benches for senior citizens and weary shoppers to rest in downtown Concordia. The Community Service project must benefit school, church or community. He chose to benefit community. He completed six benches, involving his fellow Scouts in the work, at a cost of about $300.

Mosher expressed his gratitude to people who helped, saying he was surprised and pleased at the response. He listed: Bruce Kerner, Sherwin-Williams, Robert Ballard (Midwest Lumber Co.), Palmquist Drug Store, Wilson Furniture, Cloud County Bank, Larry's Food Store, Concordia Automotive, Mr. and Mrs. John Davis, Tom's Music House, Inc., Elmer Palmquist, B and J Drug, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Lesperance, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Martin, Mrs. Berna Yarnell, Orange Owl, Schmitt Clothing Co., Phil's Jewelry, Culbertson's Electrical Co., Diebel's Shoes, Dreiling's Department Store, Mrs. Wilma Larkins, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Barnhart and family, Camera Shop, Pearl's Gift Shop, Everitt Hardware, Mrs. Loleta Deaver, Carl Metzger, Mrs. Verna Scott, Blade-Empire, Chris Samuelson, Kevin Ukens, Steven Palmquist, Brad Wheeler, Mark Lesperance and members of his own family.

Use of the benches, as directed by the city council, according to Carl Metzger, city manager, will be for special occasions, Art in the Park, and similar events.

Mosher began his Community Service project in early June. He will finish paper work for his award this week. He is a member of Troop 31, First United Methodist Church.

10-26-82

# County vacates alleys, streets in Concordia

The Board of County Commissioners yesterday directed that procedure be initiated to vacate all streets and alleys in Concordia which have previously been vacated by the city.

Abstracter Wayne Chesebro appeared at the meeting to request that the county take the action. He said that there are a number of streets and alleys in the city which have been vacated by the city, but no petitions have been presented to the county for similar action.

City attorney David Retter appeared at the meeting to request that the county vacate a portion of Russ Street in Budreau's subdivision. The commissioners approved the request and issued the vacation order.

The commissioners were informed by Larry Dean and Dale Pyke that the J. F. Glenn Company will replace a defective copier in the Law Enforcement Center with a reliable copier for the remainder of the contract period.

Sheriff Fred Modlin requested that the commissioners consider making application for either Visa or Mastercard charge card since most oil companies are discontinuing their charge cards or adding extra charges to purchase prices. The board agreed to consider the matter.

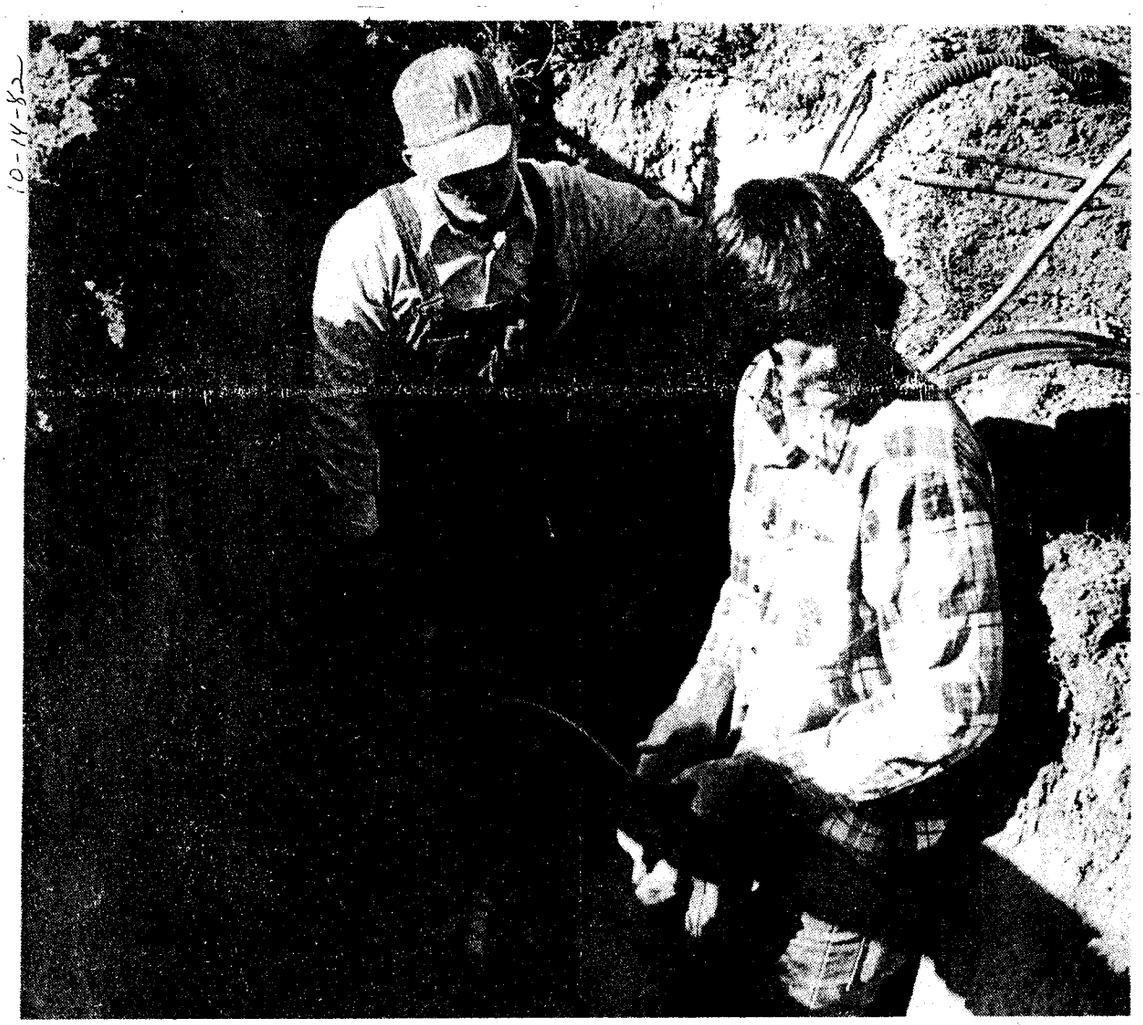
The board informed Allen Dreiling of Fire-Safe of Kansas that it has decided not to purchase the Halon fire extinguishers.

Glen Walker, director of economic development, reported to the commissioners on industrial development progress through the first six months of his employment.

Bob Jager, county appraiser, discussed the tax exempt status of farm machinery. He told the commissioners that it is mandatory that farmers come to the appraisers office to sign an application for the exemption.

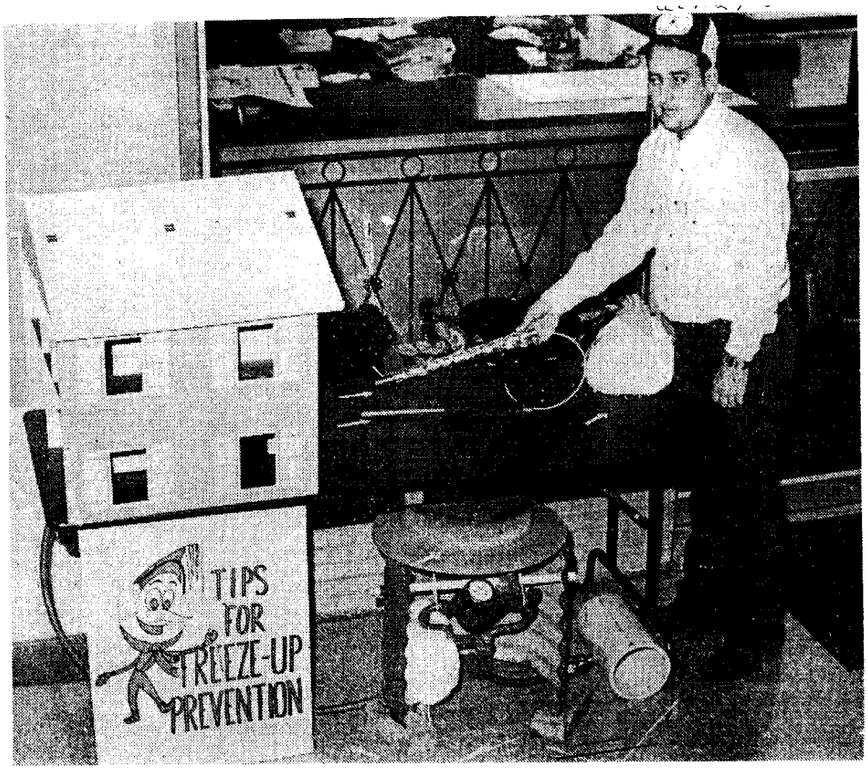
Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

10-14-82



***Hardee's coming to Concordia***

Two Concordia water department employees are pictured installing the water tap for the Hardee's fast food restaurant which will be constructed at Concordia Shopping Plaza. Construction on the building is expected to begin next week. (Blade photo by Chris Black)




***Tips from the Water Department***
David Wheaton, director of public utilities, has prepared a display at City Hall which shows ways of preventing water line freeze-ups. The city has adopted a new policy on water line freeze ups and water customers who have had reoccurring problems are being urged to take preventative steps.

# City adopts new policy on frozen water lines

The Concordia city commissioners yesterday approved a policy statement governing adjustments to water bills in the event of frozen water lines.

The new policy statement became necessary because the city has discontinued the use of welders to thaw frozen service lines.

City manager Carl Metzger said that the city administration has been working on the policy statement since the use of the welder was discontinued last winter after the Frank Wheeler residence caught fire when the city was attempting to thaw a water service line.

In recommending the adoption of the policy Metzger told the commissioners that when a welder is used to thaw water lines there is a danger of fire. He said that if the city continued to use a welder, knowing that the risk of fire exists, it is opening itself to possible litigation in the event of a fire.

In the past the city has advised water customers with freeze problems to simply let the water run during the winter months. The user would then get an adjustment on his water bill. David Wheaton, director of utilities pointed out that the old policy did not address the problem or encourage customers to take preventative action.

Under the new policy customers with a line freeze problem will be allowed to run water with an adjustment the first time a problem occurs. An adjustment will be given the second time the problem occurs providing the customer has taken substantial preventative measures. At the time of the occurrence of the second problem the customers will be advised that no future adjustments will be made on the water bill.

Line freezes on the city's portion of the line will continue to be the city's responsibility. Every effort will be made to provide service including the temporary connection from another source, according to Wheaton.

Wheaton has prepared several articles dealing with water line freeze ups which will appear in the Blade next week. He also has prepared a display at city hall showing different methods of insulating pipes and meter pits to prevent line freezes.

Wheaton told the commissioners that there were 300 water line freeze ups in 1979 and that last year there were between 70 and 80. He said obviously the number of freeze ups depends on the severity of the winter and the depth of the frost line. The longest anyone was without service last year was two weeks, Wheaton added.

The director of utilities said that the customer with a line freeze can call a plumber or private contractor to attempt to thaw the line with a welder.

Metzger said this morning that in the past some customers have arranged for a plumber to thaw a line when the city has had a big back log of frozen lines. He said he didn't know if any of the local plumbers would continue to provide the service or whether they now had the same reservations that the city does concerning the possible risk of causing a fire and becoming open to litigation.

In other business the commissioners approved two ordinances increasing the fines for violation of the city ordinance which prohibits the parking of trucks, semi-trailers, trailers, and vehicles used to transport flamable, explosive, toxic or other dangerous materials on city streets. The ordinances increased the minimum fine from $10.00 to $25.00 and increased the maximum fine to $100.00 for second violations occurring within 30 days after conviction of the first violation.

The commissioners also passed an ordinance terminating the city's franchise agreement with Southwestern Bell. Metzger explained that every five years the franchise agreement is subject to termination and if no action is taken within a prescribed time frame the agreement continues for another five years. "The agreement in force at this time was initially approved Feb. 19, 1948, and has not been amended since then," he said.

Metzger said that substantial changes have occurred in the provisions of telephone service to the residents of Concordia in the last 35 years. "Many more changes may be anticipated with the breaking up of AT&T," he said. "The city's franchise agreement should reflect the new structure that will come out of this reorganization and at the same time provide the city with a franchise rate that compensates it for the telephone company's privilege of using the public right-of-ways within the city of Concordia."

# Now is the time to prepare water lines for cold weather

10-8-82

The Concordia water department is urging its customers to prepare water lines soon for the cold winter months ahead.

The water department points out that most frozen lines occur on the property owner's private line and that the city no longer will thaw these service lines. This also includes the meter and meter pit, which is usually located somewhere in the front yard. City ordinance delegates the responsibility for protection of water lines and meter and meter pits to the customer.

The water department is recommending that these steps be taken to avoid the inconvenience and cost of frozen water pipes and meters:

—Make certain all outside faucets are drained and shut off.

—Seal cracks in walls, doors, windows; keep basement and garage doors and windows tightly closed throughout the winter.

—Insulate pipes in, or on, outside walls, crawl spaces, attics, basements, garages, or any other unheated areas where heat cannot circulate.

—Make certain that the water pipe in the yard (from cut-off to house) is four feet deep or deeper. The frost line has gotten as deep as three feet in the past few years.

—Repair the outside meter pit. Seal cracks in the meter pit vault which might allow air to enter.

—Make certain that the level of dirt on the inside of the pit is deeper than the frost line.

—If necessary, provide a non-moisture holding insulation in the meter pit to prevent the frost on the meter pit walls from "jumping" to the meter and water lines. This material and pipe insulaton can be obtained from your local lumber yards or hardware stores. Do not use batt insulation, straw, blankets, newspapers, towels, rugs, etc., as these will absorb moisture and freeze the water line.

The water department emphasized that preventing frozen lines is easier and less expensive than repairing the damage caused. By taking precautions now a lot of inconvenience and expense can be avoided later.

# ıcordia ready to recruit industry

10-22-82

ınufacturing for a first hand look at ıt high level of productivity.

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Walker said that even though confidentiality was important in industrial recruitment, he believed he could give the group a brief insight into some of his early contacts with industrial prospects.

He said that there is some interest in resumption of operation of the alfalfa dehydrating plant, however, there are some problems with the bankruptcy court.

He said that he has visited with a firm in Michigan which is involved in light assembly work which is looking to expand in a 12 state area. Another prospect is a garment manufacturer from Illinois, he said. Also, he said, he has been in contact with three European companies looking for sites in the United States.

Walker said that he is enthusiastic about Concordia. "If the economy continues to show signs of recovery, I believe we have timed our entry into the competitive market at the right time," he said. "Concordia is ready, able and will play a significant role in the economic development of the state of Kansas."

Ray Houser, chairman of the Cloud County and Concordia Economic Development Advisory Commission, told the group that the purpose of the meeting was to announce the intent of the city to issue $320,000 worth of industrial revenue bonds for an expansion at Christensen Oil Co. and to give a six-month report on Walker's activities.

Houser said that the expansion at Christensen Oil is the ideal use of industrial revenue bonds. He said that his group has been working with Champlin and co-owner Keith Christensen for some time on the project. "We think that it is appropriate that our first effort in industrial development has been with a local firm which has an outstanding reputation," he said.

The issuance of the industrial revenue bonds will create more jobs, expand the tax base, and keep dollars in the community which are now going to places such as Wichita, Salina and Topeka, Houser said. "Again, I congratulate Keith and Ron for their ambition," he said.

Champlin told the group that the expansion would not have been possible without the effort of the advisory board and Glen Walker or without the industrial revenue bonds.

Champlin said that construction of the new facility will begin next month if everything goes according to plans. Champlin said that their existing 5,500 sq. ft. warehouse building will be converted into the tire recapping and retreading plant. He said that the plant will have the initial potential of remanufacturing 36 tires per day. He added that it takes two hours to cure the remanufactured tires.

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

Champlin said that the process will be a cold process rather than the older vulcanization process. He said this has changed because most tires sold today are steel belted radials and that the old vulcanization process doesn't work on radials.

Champlin said that most of the remanufacturing will be for truck tire sales. "Eighty percent of our business presently is agricultural or ag related businesses," he said. "However, we will do some remanufacturing of passenger car tires."

Champlin said that room for the tire manufacturing plant will be accomplished by building a warehouse addition on the sales and service building.

Champlin said that initially the new plant will provide employment for five new people. Employment could increase to nine additional employees as the business grows, he said.

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# Concordia ready to recruit industry

10-22-82

After six months of preparation Concordia is ready to begin actively pursuing industrial prospects, Glen Walker, director of economic development, yesterday told a group of Concordians attending a noon luncheon.

Walker told the group that when he took the job as economic developmental director, he believed it would take six months to be ready to enter the industrial recruitment market. "Yesterday was six months since I assumed the position," he said.

During the six months period, Walker said, definable information has been collected on Concordia's advantages as an industrial location. Also, he said the types of industry which might be interested in locating here have been determined.

Walker said that one of the most significant advantages which he found is the high productivity of the Concordia labor force. One of the best sales tools Concordia has is to take a prospect to Cloud Ceramics or CE Kansas Manufacturing for a first hand look at that high level of productivity.

The economic development director said that Concordia could attract an industry which has high energy requirements, is labor intensive and produces a high volume consumer product.

Walker said that the first advertisement for Concordia as an industrial site has appeared in an October issue of an industrial trade publication. He said that Concordia will coordinate its advertising with the Kansas Department of Economic Development as well as share ads with Belleville, Clay Center and Ellsworth. He explained that by sharing ads more exposure can be secured for the collar and that investors probably have more of an idea of where north central Kansas is located than they do Concordia. "We want to first get them interested in north central Kansas and then in Concordia," he said.

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Insure with Hays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

# WE WANT YOU TO

In the November 2nd General Election, the people of Concordia will be asked to approve or reject an additional one-half cent local sales tax. If approved, the City sales tax would be one cent.

The following questions and answers have been prepared to provide information to the voters concerning the local sales tax.

*1) How successful has the present ½c local sales tax been in Concordia?*

Revenues generated from the ½c sales tax have allowed the City Commission to DECREASE property taxes in Concordia for 2 consecutive years. This means that the property owner in Concordia will be paying LESS DOLLARS in property tax this year than he did 2 years ago to support city services. Very few cities with or without sales tax revenue could make this claim.

An equipment reserve fund has also been established with a portion of the sales tax revenue. Therefore, if the City must make an expensive equipment purchase (i.e. an ambulance) it can use this fund rather than raising your property taxes.

*2) Why has the additional ½c sales tax been placed on the ballot?*

The additional ½c sales tax has been placed on the ballot for 2 reasons:

1. To allow repeal of the Intangibles Tax.
2. To allow further reduction of the property tax.

Many concerned citizens have asked that the local tax on their savings, the intangibles tax, be repealed. A referendum repealing the intangibles tax would, by state law, result in an automatic 25% increase in the City's property taxes. For this reason, the city commission will not repeal the intangibles tax unless the ½c sales tax is approved by the voters to replace the lost revenue.

In addition, the city commission has gone on record in stating that any sales tax revenue not used to off-set the loss of intangibles revenue, will be used to provide further property tax reduction.

*3) What are the arguments for Intangibles Tax repeal?*

Those individuals who support repeal of the intangibles tax usually cite two major reasons:

1. Lack of ability to enforce.
2. The new federal withholding tax on savings.

Due to recent changes in state law, the County Clerk now collects Intangibles Tax forms. Previously, these forms were collected by the Kansas Department of Revenue. Many individuals believe that because the County Clerk does not have access to your federal income tax forms, verification of the amount of intangibles tax owed will be difficult. This could create problems in the enforcement of the tax.

In addition, the Congress recently passed a new law which orders banks and savings institutions to withholding 10% of an individual's interest earnings every quarter. This new withholding law

# City sales tax increase on ballot

Nov 1-4 82

The election fever which has hit either a new high or new low depending on how one views the newspaper ads, television commercials and radio spots will end tomorrow morning at 7 a. m. when the polls open.

Perhaps the most heated race has been the one between incumbent governor John Carlin and Republican challenger Sam Hardage. Carlin is a severance tax proponent while Hardage carries the banner for decreased state spending to bring the state's depleting treasury into balance.

There are several interesting local races and one city issue which will be decided by the voters tomorrow. Two rural Clyde men are seeking a position on the Board of County Commissioners. Republican Mark C. Morgan is challenging incumbent Democrat Martin Koch for the position.

A hot race has developed between incumbent Bill Fuller, R-Miltonvale, and Kent Campbell, the Democrat challenger, also from Miltonvale, for the 107th District seat in the Kansas House of Representatives.

Concordia voters will decide whether or not they want the city commission to repeal the intangibles tax and add another one-half of one percent to the city sales tax. The city commissioners will not repeal the intangible tax unless the sales tax issue is approved.

The city commission also has gone on record as stating that any sales tax revenue not used to offset the loss of the intangibles tax revenue will be used to provide further property tax reduction.

Republican Pat Roberts, seeking his second term as Representative from the First Congressional District, is being challenged by Kent Roth, a Democrat from Great Bend. Roth has waged an ambitious campaign, but he is fighting an uphill battle in this predominantly Republican stronghold.

Polling places in Cloud County tomorrow are: Aurora city and Aurora and Colfax townships—Knights of Columbus Hall in Aurora; Clyde city and Elk township—City Hall in Clyde; Glasco city, Lyon, Solomon and West Meredith townships—City Hall in Glasco; Jamestown city, Grant and Summit Townships—City Hall in Jamestown; Miltonvale city, Oakland, Star and East Meredith townships—City Hall in Miltonvale; North Lawrence township—Hollis School House; Lawrence and Nelson townships—Nelson Community Center; Arion township—Silver Arrow School House; Shirley township—Shirley Township Hall; Buffalo, East and West Lincoln, Center and Sibley townships—American Legion Hall in Concordia.

Polling places for Concordia wards are: First Ward—American Legion Hall; Second Ward, first and second precincts—First United Methodist Church; Third and Fourth Wards—Catholic Education Center.

Polls will close at 7 p. m.

# KNOW

will place a greater burden on those who are trying to save money, and especially on those people who are retired and must make their living from their savings interest. Repeal of the intangibles tax would provide relief for these individuals.

*4) What about property tax reduction?*

The exemption of farm machinery from property taxes has created a noticeable shift in the property tax burden. Dr. John Watson, Superintendent of USD 333, stated that this exemption will cause an increase of 4.12 mills in the USD mill levy.

In addition, he stated that the mill levy could raise as much as 9 mills. The only practical way to relieve this additional burden on the property owner is to adopt the local sales tax.

In summary, on November 2nd you will be asked to approve or reject the additional ½c sales tax. Approval would raise the local sales tax to 1c and would result in repeal of the intangibles tax and further reduction in property taxes.

GREGORY L. HATTAN,
Mayor

LEE W. DOYEN,
Commissioner

ERNEST GIRARD,
Commissioner

Kansas-Oct 28-82

11-4-82

# City Voters Approve Sales Tax Question

Concordia city voters Tuesday approved an additional one-half cent sales tax in the city effective Feb. 1, 1983. The vote was overhelmingly in favor of a proposition made by the city commission last summer—1,739 yes to 748 no. The question carried in all five precincts but was turned down by the absentee voters.

Following is the vote by precinct:

| | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| 1st Ward | 254 | 89 |
| 2nd Ward, 1st Pct. | 356 | 161 |
| 2nd Ward, 2nd Pct | 395 | 105 |
| 3rd Ward | 446 | 208 |
| 4th Ward | 222 | 122 |

The proposition offered voters by the city commission was trading the unpopular intangibles tax for the additional ½c sales tax. In addition the commission projected the sales tax will bring in about $53,000 more than the intangibles tax and this overage amount would be used to reduce property taxes in the future.

Sales tax in the city goes to 4c next February.

## Commissioners Hold Session

The business taken up at Monday's meeting of the Board of Cloud County Commissioners was routine.

County Appraiser Bob Jagger told commissioners that farm machinery exemptions — to exempt personal property taxes — cannot be applied for until after Jan. 1, 1983. Exemptions are to be applied for at the same time residents normally visit the appraiser's office for their personal property appraisal.

Steve Jennings and Ken Turner of Bucher and Willis engineers of Selina, advised the board they desired to submit a proposal for computer service. The board granted them permission to submit the proposal for the service.

Dale and Rick Moore advised the board of a drainage problem on their property. The commissioners agreed to view the area Monday afternoon, Nov. 8.

## City Police Raid Apartment

Late Monday afternoon, Nov. 1, Concordia police raided an apartment above "The Smoker" tavern at 109 West 6th and arrested two men. Armed with a search warrant signed by Magistrate Judge William Thompson of Belleville, officers said they seized a large amount of marijuana, cocaine, drug paraphernalia, an illegal weapon, and an explosive devise.

Allen Brown, 20, and Scott Davis, 21, were arrested and each charged with two misdemeanors, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana; and three felonies, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of a narcotic, cocaine, and intent to sell cocaine.

Additionally, Davis is charged with one misdemeanor count of unlawful possession of a "Butterfly Knife," commonly referred to as a switch-blade.

At their court appearance on Tuesday attorneys were appointed for the defendants and bonds set at $3,000 each. They were returned to jail pending posting of bonds.

Also found in the apartment during the search was a hand grenade. It reportedly was filled with explosives according to law officials with the FBI, who were consulted by the county attorney's office. However, it could not be exploded as found due to the lack of a primer. The grenade was turned over to the KBI for disposal, according to federal law, the county attorney's office reports.

# Quiet Halloween in Concordia

Halloween was one of the calmest on record, according to Concordia police chief Dennis Rohr.

Police reported that there appeared to be the usual number of young children trick or treating earlier in the evening, but the goblins who usually appear later in the night were at a minimum.

Rohr said that Lanae Michelson, 609 Kansas, reported that a small window was broken when an object was thrown at the window about 8:30 p. m.

It also was reported that three small windows and a door glass were broken on the east side of the Concordia Junior-Senior High School building.

Early Sunday morning a police car driven by officer R. J. Lowell was damaged when a car driven by Dwain Dankenbring hit the police vehicle. Dankenbring was backing his car from a parking stall in 100 block on W. 6th Street.

Nov 1-82

Blade - 11-5-82

# Airport beacon bought

Bill Fellows, chairman of the Concordia Air Show Committee, announced today that a rotating beacon has been purchased for Blosser Municipal Airport.

The new FAA approved rotating beacon has 1,000 watt bulbs which can be seen for forty miles. Pilots will now be able to locate the airport much easier at night and in bad weather which will result in improved air safety.

Proceeds for the 1982 Concordia Air Show were used to help purchase the beacon. "Thanks to the tremendous turnout the committee is looking at other types of equipment to purchase with the remaining runds," Fellows said.

The rotating beacon is scheduled for delivery and installation in December of this year.

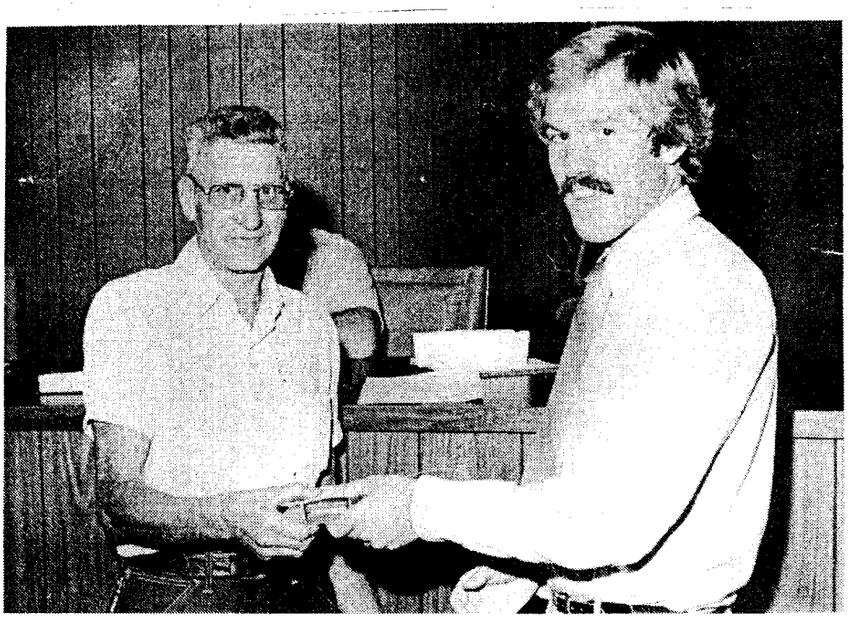
The 1982 Concordia Air Show Committee expressed its appreciation for the public's support and attendance in making the purchase of the new equipment possible.

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

11-8-82

### *Final weeks before shutdown*

Construction crews doing the downtown improvement work are working as many hours as possible before they shut down for the Christmas shopping season. Under the terms of their contracts they can work until the Christmas shopping season begins. They will complete their work when the weather becomes agreeable after Christmas. (Blade photo by Chris Black)



### *Twenty-five year award*

Cecil Dale (right) recently was given a 25-year service award from Concordia Mayor Greg Hattan. Dale has been a city employee for 25 years and is presently an equipment operator for the street department. (Photo by Chris Black)

11-8-82

***Ten year service award***

**Steve Horkman (right) recently received a 10 year service award from Concordia Mayor Greg Hattan. Horkman has been a member of the Concordia police department for 10 years. (Photo by Chris Black)**

11-8-82



## Vandalism reported

Ronald Trembley, 518 W. 6th reported to the police department that sometime between 7 p.m. Friday and 1 a.m. Saturday the rear window of his automobile was broken and the back deck paint scratched. He said the car was parked at the Rock Quarry Disco when the incident occurred.

## Police want help

Police are asking the public to report any person or persons who may be going door to door selling storm windows for houses. The department has received reports of several persons using false information relating to an energy audit to attempt to sell the storm windows.

These people also have not obtained a city permit for door to door sales.

## Fire damages house

11-8-82

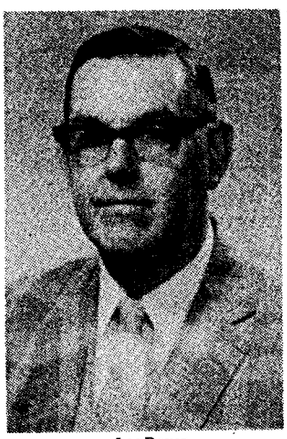
Fire caused extensive damage to the kitchen and living room of the Joseph Collins residence at 409 E. 17th late Saturday afternoon.

The fire department answered the call to the Collins home at approximately 5 p.m. The entire house sustained extensive smoke damage, according to fire chief Jack Fisher.

Fisher said that it is suspected that the fire started when the wiring of an electric fan shorted. He said that Mrs. Collins has been using the fan in the kitchen and was outside the house when the fire began. Fisher added that the fire spread rapidly through the house.

Fisher said the fire department was at the scene of the fire until about 6:20. He said that the insurance company is still working on the estimates of the damage.

# Lee Doyen receives award



Lee Doyen

Lee Doyen was one of six Adult Scouters from the Coronado Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, honored with the council's highest award, the Silver Beaver, at the annual recognition dinner Sunday, at Fort Hays State University Student Union, Hays. Mrs. Doyen made the presentation to her husband in behalf of the council.

The five other recipients were: Edward L. Skidmore, Manhattan; Wanda M. Kreller, Stockton; Mort Plunkett, Hill City; Kermit E. Montgomery and William M. Cole, Salina.

More than 200 Scouters from over the 32-county area served by the Council, a United Way Agency, attended. Ernest V.D. Murphy, council president, Junction City, presided. Dr. Keith Palmer, Salina, served as Silver Beaver presentor.

Eugene Leon, Concordia, is chairman for the Piconda District.

# Flags will fly Thursday

11-9-82

November winds will carry a blaze of red, white and blue in Pleasant Hill Cemetery on Veterans Day, as the Avenue of Flags flies 235 American flags. Each is a memorial to an area resident who served his country in time of war.

In Washington, D.C. a national salute to Vietnam Veterans will begin Wednesday evening with a candlelight vigil and parade to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which remembers the 2,700,000 Americans who went to Vietnam.

The candlelight vigil, to be held around the clock at the National Cathedral, is expected to include nearly 48 hours in volunteer reading of the names of 58,000 who gave their lives in that war. On the quarter hours Christian and Jewish prayers will be read. A schedule will show when names will be read in their alphabetical order.

The largest single donation to the controversal memorial was made by the American Legion, which surpassed its one million dollar goal.

In Concordia the Legion and VFW Post colors will fly, along with the American flag, at the eternal flame on the courthouse lawn, according to Clarence Fleming, chairman of the Avenue of Flags Committee, who said flags will go up at 8 a.m. and come down at 4 p.m.

Government and courthouse offices and banks will be closed for the holiday.

Parades in many places will begin at the traditional hour of 11, the hour the armistice was signed, Nov. 11, 1918, which ended World War I.

## No flags downtown

Flags will not be flown on Concordia streets this Veterans Day, according to Verna Scott, city clerk. The poles which hold the flags cannot be placed because of the construction work.

City offices will be closed for the day.

11-12-82

Nov 1-82

# WE WANT YOU TO KNOW

**In the November 2nd General Election, the people of Concordia will be asked to approve or reject an additional one-half cent local sales tax. If approved, the City sales tax would be one cent.**

**The following questions and answers have been prepared to provide information to the voters concerning the local sales tax:**

## 1. Why has the additional ½¢ sales tax been placed on the ballot?

For two reasons:

1. TO ALLOW REPEAL OF THE INTANGIBLES TAX.
2. TO ALLOW FURTHER REDUCTION OF THE PROPERTY TAX.

## 2. What are the arguments for Intangibles Tax Repeal?

Those individuals who support repeal of the Intangibles tax usually cite 2:

1. Lack of ability to enforce.

2. The new federal withholding tax on savings.

Due to recent changes in state law, the County Clerk now collects Intangibles Tax forms. Previously, these forms were collected by the Kansas Department of Revenue. Many individuals believe that because the County Clerk does not have access to your federal income tax forms, verification of the amount of intangibles tax owed will be difficult. This could create problems in the enforcement of the tax.

In addition, the Congress recently passed a new law which orders banks and savings institutions to withhold 10% of an individual's interest earnings every quarter. This new withholding law will place a greater burden on those who are trying to save money, and especially on those people who are retired and must make their living from their savings interest. Repeal of the intangibles tax would provide relief for these individuals.

Many concerned citizens have asked that this local tax on their savings, the intangibles tax, be repealed. A referendum repealing the intangibles tax would, by state law, result in an automatic 25% increase in the City's property taxes. For this reason, the City Commission will not repeal the intangibles tax unless the ½¢ sales tax is approved by the voters to replace the lost revenue.

## 3. What about property tax reduction?

Property taxes levied by the City of Concordia have DECREASED for two consecutive years. This means that the property owner in Concordia will be paying LESS DOLLARS in property tax this year than he did 2 years ago to support city services. Very few cities with or without sales tax revenue could make this claim. However, changes in state law exempting farm machinery from taxation are going to result in higher property taxes next year.

Dr. John Watson, Superintendent of USD 333, stated that this exemption will cause the school district tax requirement to

Nov 2-82

# Crime figures show decline during October

The monthly police activities report shows a decline in the number of cases worked this October, according to statistics released today by police chief Dennis Rohr.

The number of cases worked this October by the Concordia police department was 24 with losses estimated to be $3,209.00, while the number of cases worked in October of 1981 was 32 with losses estimated to be $2,985.00.

Seven misdemeanor acts of vandalism were reported with losses estimated to be $270.00, while 12 cases with losses estimated at $780.00 were reported in 1981. A comparison of felony acts of vandalism shows that only two cases with losses estimated to be $430.00 were reported this October, while five cases with losses estimated at $700.00 were reported in 1981.

There were eight cases of misdemeanor theft reported in 1982 with estimated losses estimated at $400.00 last year. There were five felony thefts reported this year with losses estimated at $1,520.00, while only three cases with losses estimated at $800.00 last October.

There were two burglaries reported in October of this year with losses estimated at $700.00. There also were two burglaries reported in 1981, but the losses were estimated at only $305.00.

During the month the department cleared four theft cases and two burglaries. Twelve people were charged with various crimes. The department also investigated 29 vehicular accidents.

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Dr. John Watson, Superintendent of USD 333, stated that this exemption will cause the school district tax requirement to increase 4.12 mills. In addition, he stated that the mill levy could raise as much as 9.00 mills.

Passage of an additional one-half cent local sales tax, will allow the City to further reduce local property taxes and continue property tax relief.

In summary, on November 2nd you will be asked to approve or reject the additional ½¢ sales tax. Approval would raise the local sales tax to 1¢ and would result in repeal of the intangibles tax and further reduction in property taxes.

GREGORY L. HATTAN, Mayor
LEE W. DOYEN, Commissioner
ERNEST GIRARD, Commissioner

***Exercising their right***

Some close local and state races and a local sales tax issue spurred Concordia voters to the polls early today. Turnouts across the state and nation were exceeding predictions as warm weather and appeals from the candidates encouraged voters to go to the polls. Polls in Concordia and Cloud County will close at 7 p.m. (Blade photo by Chris Black)

Nov. 2-82

# Voter turnout heavy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bombarded for months by appeals to their hopes and fears, Americans went to the polls today to shape a new Congress and signal whether they are willing to stay the course with President Reagan's economic program.

Polls opened at dawn and within hours state and county elections officials in the East, South and Midwest cited unseasonably warm weather and said voters were turning out in high numbers, frequently heavier than had been anticipated.

New York City officials said that, if the early high turnout persisted through the day, the tally could exceed the 1978 off-year total by more than 500,000 votes.

In Baltimore County, Md., one official said the early turnout was "the heaviest I've seen in 15 years." Officials in Lycoming County, Pa., said people were waiting in line when the polls opened, which the officials said they had not seen before.

Lines were also reported at some Virginia precincts before the polls opened and one West Virginia official said of the early morning lines in his county: "We seldom see that so early in the day."

Reports of heavy early morning turnouts also came from officials in Connecticut, Ohio, Georgia, Tennessee and Illinois. While some observers reported light or moderate turnouts, others said turnouts could easily reach 60 percent to 70 percent of all registered voters.

Despite the initial indications of heavy turnout, actual, complete tallies will not be available before early Wednesday. In advance of the voting, there were varying estimates of whether this election would reverse the downward trend of the last two decades.

Conflicting economic signs — rising unemployment, declining interest rates and soaring stock prices — prompted Richard Wirthlin, the White House pollster, to call the election a referendum on "whether people are going to vote their present fears ... or whether they are going to vote their hopes as to how the (Reagan) program will work."

The campaign closed with Democrats contending the Republican administration has a secret plan to try to cut Social Security benefits and the president replying that "there's no truth in what they're saying."

The economy — particularly, the 10.1 percent unemployment rate — and Social Security were the national issues. But many contests could be decided by local concerns and voter reaction to the personalities of the candidates.

At stake were 425 House seats and 33 in the Senate. Louisiana's eight House seats have already been decided and selection of two of Georgia's seats has been delayed by court challenges. Voters in 36 states will choose governors and in 46 will select legislators.

In addition, nine states are holding statewide referendums on the nuclear freeze. Other ballot issues include handgun control, gambling and a hotly contested proposal to move the state capital of Alaska 580 miles from Juneau to Willow, about 70 miles from Anchorage.

The outcome of the House and Senate contests could determine whether President Reagan can forge ahead with his economic program or will be forced to cut back his goal of trimming the size and impact of the federal government.

In a pre-election interview, a White House official, who requested anonymity, talked about "the pool of patience" and speculated voters were willing to give the president's program more time, a decision that would gain support for Republican candidates.

Most estimates were that the Democrats would gain between 12 and 24 House seats. Since World War II, the norm for the president's party in the first midterm contests after his election is a loss of 19 House seats.

During his first 18 months in the White House, Reagan regularly got his way on Capitol Hill. Republicans control the Senate with 54 seats to 45 for the Democrats and one independent. And while the Democrats held a 49-seat majority in the House, the president prevailed on key votes by forging a coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats.

Rep. Tony Coelho of California, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said in an interview Monday that if his party picks up 15 House seats it would "destroy the president's coalition."

## Fuller, Morgan are winners

Nov. 3, 1982

# Voters approve sales tax hike

The biggest surprise in the Cloud County election returns last night had to be the overwhelming margin of victory of the one half of one percent city sales tax increase approved by Concordia voters.

The measure was approved 1,739 to 748 to pave the way for the repeal of the city intangibles tax by the city commission.

The only other race which might have been considered a surprise was the victory of Republican candidate Mark C. Morgan over incumbent Democrat Martin Koch for a seat on the Board of County Commissioners. However, since Morgan is a Republican in a predominantly Republican county some of the surprise is diminished. Morgan defeated Koch 1,022 to 632.

Incumbent Republican Bill Fuller, Miltonvale, defeated Democrat Kent Campbell, Miltonvlae, to win his third term in the Kansas House of Representatives from the 107th district. Fuller received 2,358 votes in Cloud County to go with 1,310 votes in Ottawa County for a total of 3,668. Campbell received 1,977 votes in Cloud County and 748 votes in Ottawa County for a 2,725 total. Libertarian candidate Stephen Matheny also from Miltonvale received 49 votes in the race.

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

Fuller said this morning that he was pleased with the victory. "It was not a good election for Republicans and for that reason it was even more pleasing," he said. Fuller said he was disappointed in the number of votes he received in Cloud County, but pointed out that he had a large plurality in Miltonvale which made him particularly happy considering the other two candidates were also from his home town.

Fuller said that some difficult decisions, which have been put off for too long, have to be made in the next session of the legislature. He said that he thought that some compromising needs to be done to accomplish what needs to be done in Topeka.

Cloud County voters favored one of the state office losers on the ballot Tuesday when they voted in favor of Democrat Stephen Hirsch over Republican Clifford Campbell in the race for state representative from the 106th district. Voters in Solomon and Summit townships favored Hirsch 231 to 149. However, voters in Mitchell County favored Campbell 2,012 to 1,251 to give the Republican the seat.

In all of the other races Cloud County voters went with the rest of the state and cast their votes with the winners. Gov. John Carlin on his way to a second four-year term as governor defeated GOP challenger Sam Hardage in Cloud County 3,023 to 1,645.

Republican Pat Roberts, seeking his second term from the first district in the U.S. House of Representatives, easily carried Cloud County over challenger Kent Roth of Great Bend. Roberts rolled up a 2,970 to 1,645 margin in Cloud County.

Republican Secretary of State Jack Brier carried the county 2,731 to 1,492 over Democrat Billy McCray.

Attorney General Robert Stephen, a Republican, won handily in Cloud County over Democrat Lance Burr with a vote of 2,953 to 1,560.

Incumbent Insurance Commissioner Fletcher Bell had no contest in defeating challenger Glen Shields, 3,797 to 267 in Cloud County.

Joan Finney, a Democrat, successful in her race for re-election defeated Republican challenger Douglas Holt in Cloud County 2,595 to 1,852.

The sales tax issue had no organized opposition and breezed to approval, carrying all four Concordia wards. In exchange for the sales tax increase the city commissioners have pledged to repeal the city's 2.25 percent intangible tax levy. The .75 percent sales tax collected by the county will not be affected by the referendum approved by Concordia voters.

City manager Carl Metzger estimates that the additional one half of one percent sales tax will raise $200,000 in revenues for the city. However, the city will net only about $47,000 in additional revenue from the sales tax increase, because approximately $100,000 will be lost in intangibles tax revenue and because the commissioners have pledged to reduce property taxes by $53,000 or about three mills, he pointed out.

The sales tax increase will become effective Jan. 1, 1983.

# Sales tax increases drew mixed reactions

11-3-82

**By The Associated Press**

Sales tax increases on county ballots drew a mixed reaction from Kansas voters on Tuesday with the increases gaining approval in 10 of the 22 counties where they appeared on the ballot.

Voters in nine counties approved proposed first-time sales taxes of 1 percent while Riley County voters approved a new one-half percent sales tax.

Proposed 1 percent increases were rejected in 10 counties while Cowley County voters voted down a new one-half cent increase and Reno County voters rejected a proposed increase in the sales tax from one-half percent to 1 percent.

Proposed sales tax increases at the city level were approved in four municipalities and rejected in four others.

Lawrence voters, meanwhile, gave overwhelming approval to a nuclear weapons freeze in an independent survey conducted by the Lawrence Coalition for Peace and Justice. The measure was approved 8,639-2,298.

"It's a beginning point," said Ann Moore, treasurer of the group. "It's great to see this result. I think it indicates there is a positive concern by a fair amount of people."

Mayor Marci Francisco said she would send the results to President Reagan and the Kansas congressional delegation.

Sales tax measures were generally approved in close votes or rejected by wide margins.

Washington County voters, for example, approved a proposed 1 percent increase in a 1,674-1,629 vote. Similar proposals were approved by a 1,297-1,200 margin in Sherman County, 1,447-1,309 in Wabaunsee County, and 2,697-2,529 in Jefferson County.

Other counties approving 1 percent increases included Chautauqua, Pawnee, Barber, Gray and Jewell.

A 1 percent increase was vetoed by a 1,999-539 vote in Smith County. Other rejection votes included 1,760-938 in Harper County, 3,331-1,602 in Marion County and 2,833-2,488 in Marshall County.

Proposed 1 percent increases were also rejected in Dickinson, Wallace, Wilson, Franklin, Bourbon and Ellsworth counties.

Cities voting to increase local sales taxes included Garden City, Concordia, Neodeshe and WaKeeny. Similar measures were defeated in Hutchinson, Hill City, Westmoreland and Winchester.

A number of school issues were on local ballots, including a four-mill levy for the Wellsville School District in Franklin County; a $414,000 bond issue narrowly approved for North Lyon County Unified School District 251; a $5.9 million school bond issue approved in Unified School District 383 in Riley County and Manhattan; and a $1.7 million bond issue defeated by Marysville voters.

Norton voters passed a $78,000 bond issue for a new public safety building while county voters approved a half-mill increase to one mill to fund a service program for the elderly.

Russell County voters recalled two members of the Unified School District 407 School Board. The recalls of Richard Reeves and Cecil Mashburn and earlier resignations left just two members on the board.

Chautauqua County voters rejected a measure that would have merged Chautauqua city and county law enforcement agencies.

Goodland City voter agreed to a measure increasing the city's current three-member commission to five members.

**NOTICE**

**Concordia Jaycee Meeting Changed To Wednesday, Nov. 10 8 P.M. at Elks Dining Room**

# Commissioners table request for annexation

Blade Nov. 4-82

The Concordia city commission yesterday approved a resolution which will allow library employees to become participants in the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System.

The Concordia library board requested the action which will become effective Jan. 1, 1983. The library board will make the employer contributions and the funds will be reflected in future library budgets. Only one employee, the librarian, is eligible for participation in the program at this time.

The commissioners also approved the final costs of an alley project in block 47. The final costs of the project were $7,601.78 which was well below the engineer's estimate of $9,360.00. The commissioners established Wednesday, Dec. 1, as assessment hearing date on the project.

The commissioners rejected a request from Concordia realtor Phil Detrixhe for annexation of a tract of land north of the county yards.

The commissioners tabled a request from Concordia realtor Phil Dextrixhe for annexation of a tract of land immediately north of the county yards. The commissioners wanted to view the land before making their final decision.

City manager Carl Metzger told the commissioners that the proposed annexation when viewed in the light of city policy considerations does not correspond to any public plan for growth. "The area is located entirely in a flood plan and, if annexed, would be subject to very restrictive building regulations," Metzger said. "Further the principal use being made of the land in this area is agricultural."

Metzger said that because the annexation is being requested by petition, no formal plan for service extension is required. However, he said, extension of water and sewer lines to service residences in this area in the future would be expensive. "In fact, the sanitary sewer service could only be provided through construction of a force main," he said. "The city would not be able to provide adequate fire protection to this location because of the distance to the nearest main and fire hydrant."

Metzger informed the commissioners that the one-half of one percent city sales tax issue had been approved by the voters 1,739 to 748. He said that upon receipt of the board of canvassers official certification, an ordinance will be submitted to the commissioners authorizing the sales tax increase. At that time, he explained, the commissioners also will be asked to approve a resolution repealing the intangibles tax effective Jan. 1, 1983. He said the sales tax increase will become effective Feb. 1, 1983.

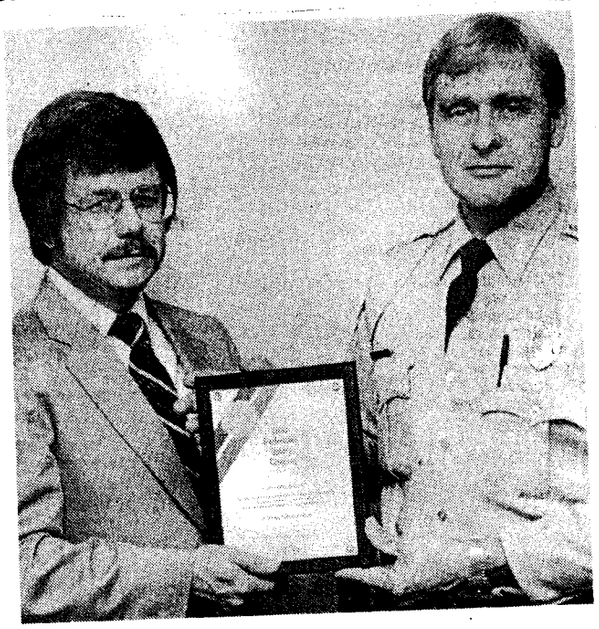
## Receives Silver Beaver Award

Mr. and Mrs. Lee W. Doyen of Concordia were among the 200 scouters from the 32 counties served by the Coronado Area Council Boy Scouts of America, at the annual recognition dinner Sunday, Nov. 7, in Hays. During

Lee W. Doyen

the program following the dinner, Doyen was awarded the Silver Beaver award honoring him for his outstanding service to scouting at the Council, District, and local levels for the past 20 years. Mrs. Doyen made the presentation in behalf of the Council.

Six Silver Beaver awards were presented at the council meeting by Dr. Keith Palmer, Salina, who also presented the high award to Edward L. Skidmore, Manhattan; Wanda M. Kreller, Stockton; Mert Plunkett, Hill City; Keith E. Montgomery and William M. Cole, Salina.



***Safety award***

**Concordia has received an American Automotive Association Pedestrian Safety Citation. Ron Welch, (left) AAA safety director, recently presented the award to Concordia chief of police Dennis Rohr. (Blade photo by Chris Black)**

Nov 2 - 82

# City receives safety award

TOPEKA. . .Concordia has earned an American Automobile Association (AAA) Pedestrian Safety Citation for its achievement, the past three years, in the prevention of pedestrian fatalities.

According to Ron Welch, AAA Automobile Club of Kansas safety director, the citation recognizes the city of Concordia, and the Concordia Police Department in particular, for its outstanding pedestrian safety programs.

Welch noted that in 1981 pedestrians accounted for 16 percent of all traffic fatalities nationwide and more than 10 percent of those in Kansas.

"It takes a lot of safety activity, and a little luck, for a city the size of Concordia to complete an entire calendar year without a pedestrian death, let alone three years," said Welch. "Chief Dennis Rohr and his department are to be congratulated."

The AAA pedestrian program, unique in the nation, focuses attention on pedestrian safety needs by stimulating interest on the local level in pedestrian-related program. Recognition is given to cities and states that have demonstrated successful pedestrian safety programs.

More than 2,790 cities and 29 states participated in the 1981 survey.

Kansas also earned recognition for 1981, receiving a Special Citation For Outstanding Pedestrian Program Improvement among all the states participating.

Last year Kansas had nearly 50 pedestrian fatalities.

# Duclos Foundation awards fall grants

11-11-82

The Leva and Frank Duclos Foundation advisory board Tuesday recommended the distribution of $7,050.00 to applicants from Cloud and Republic counties.

Grants of $1,500 each were recommended for the Belleville city recreation program and to the Cloud County Community College Endowment Association.

The Belleville recreation association had requested a grant of $3,598.00 to be used to replace a backstop for the youth baseball diamond.

The CCCC Endowment Association had requested money to be used for scholarships for Cloud and Republic county students.

Grants of $1,000 were recommended for the Brown Grand Theatre in Concordia and to the Clyde Community Historical Society. The Brown Grand board of directors requested a grant to be used to maintain the theatre, while the Clyde group is seeking funds to restore the Marcotte School building.

Grants of $500.00 were recommended for the Belleville Free University for community education; St. Joseph

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

Hospital to be used for an education program for diabetics; and the LeBeau Junior Study Club of Scandia to be used to help fund construction of an enclosed picnic shelter.

A grant of $300.00 was recommended for the Jamestown Kountry Gals EHU to be used to purchase playground equipment for the Jamestown park.

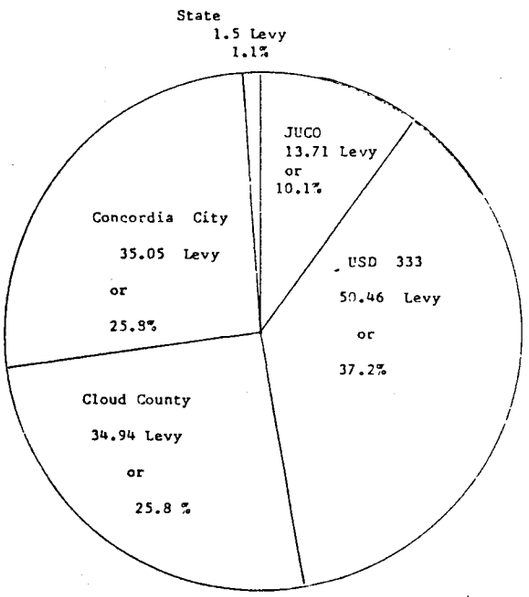
A grant of $250.00 was recommended for Courtland Community Education to be used for community education.

The Duclos Foundation is a charitable trust which was established to serve the people of Cloud and Republic counties. The funds are to be used to help residents who have been the victims of a disaster or to be used by groups or individuals who do not have the ability to generate funds through other sources.

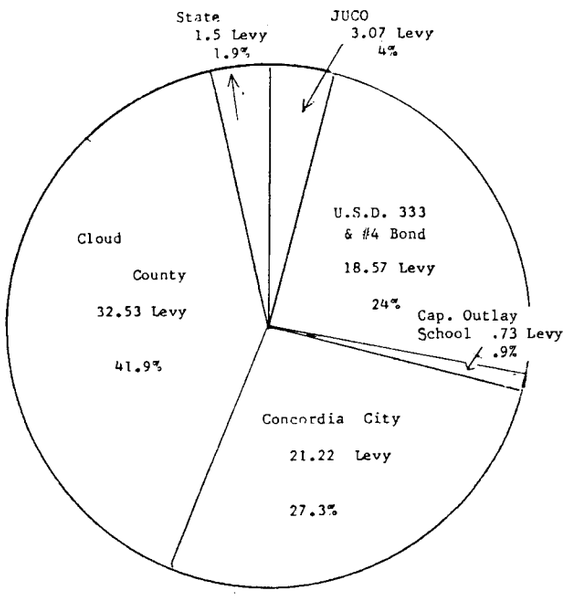
The Foundation has authorized $22,050.00 in grants for distribution during 1982. Since the first distribution was made in 1977, $133,505.50 has been allocated by the advisory board to Cloud and Republic county applicants.

The next meeting of the advisory board will be April 19, 1983.

1982 distribution of property tax collected from Concordia residents.
Levy of 135.66 mills
County valuation $55,131,928.00




1966 distribution of property tax collected from Concordia residents.
Levy of 77.62 mills
County valuation $38,231,120.00




***Where your property tax dollars go***

**These two charts prepared by county appraiser Bob Jager compare property tax spending in 1982 to property tax spending in 1966. As can easily be seen education is now receiving nearly one half of all property tax dollars collected in the county. These two charts show the distribution of the property tax dollars paid by Concordia residents. Jager has prepared charts for each township in the county.**

11-10-82

# Charts show shift in property tax spending in past 16 years

County appraiser Bob Jager Monday presented charts to the board of county commissioners which graphically demonstrate how a higher and higher percentage of the property tax dollar is being spent on education in Cloud County.

Jager's chart for Concordia residents revealed that education, U.S.D. 333 and Cloud County Community College, took 27.97 percent of the property tax revenue raised in 1966 as compared to 50.91 percent of the revenue generated in 1982.

A substantial drop in the percentage of property tax dollars used has taken place in city government which in 1982 took only 25.8 percent of the funds generated as compared to 41.9 percent in 1966. The county percentage has dropped slightly from 27.3 percent in 1966 to 25.8 percent in 1982.

U.S.D. 333's share of the property tax dollars has increased from 24.9 percent in 1966 to 37.2 percent in 1982. The share of the property tax to operate Cloud County Community College during the same period has increased from four percent to 10.1 percent.

In the 16 year period the tax levy for Concordia residents has risen from 77.62 mills to 135.66 mills. The assessed valuation during the period has increased from $38,231,120.00 to $55,131,928.00.

Jager also gave the commissioners similar charts for each township in the county.

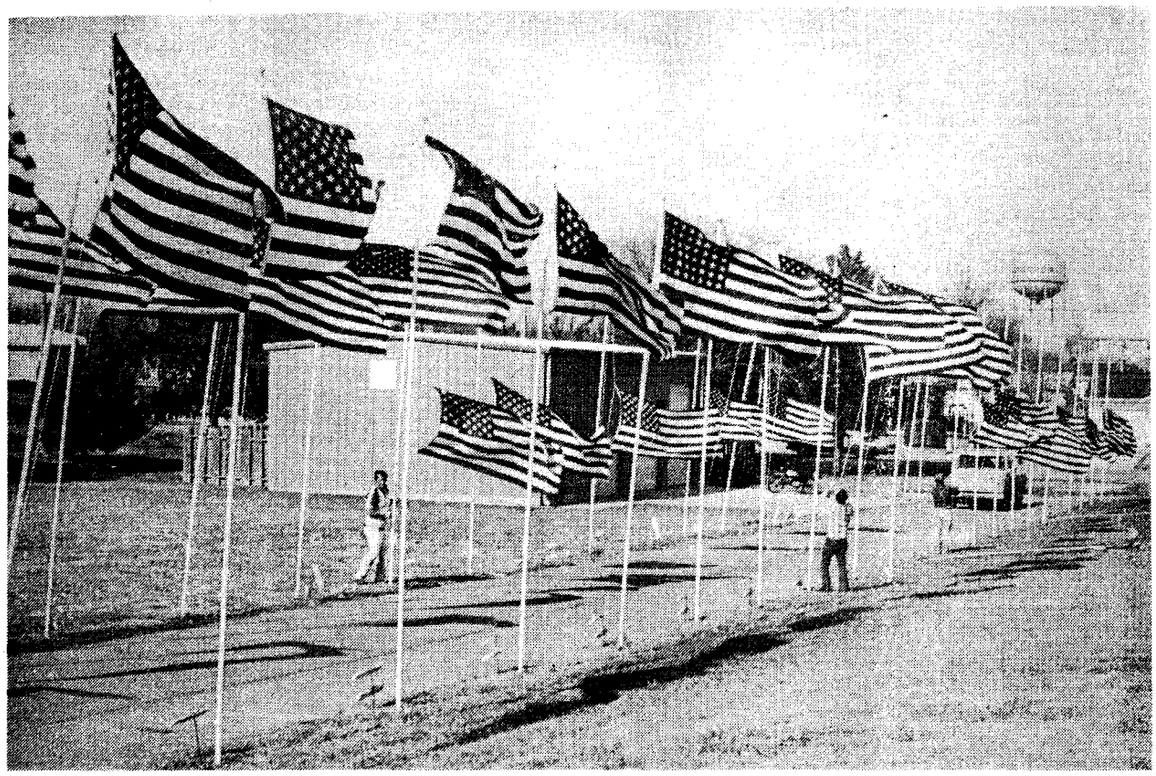
In other business the commissioners deferred action on the purchase of a fire alarm system for the courthouse. Larry Thornton, Interstate Engineering of Randall, met with the board to discuss a proposed system.

The commissioners rejected a request from North Side Services, Hutchinson, to be included in the bid list for gasoline each month.

Darrel Hosie, county agent, presented the board members with invitations to a coffee at KOC and invited them to attend the extension council's annual banquet Nov. 16.

The board heard a report from Lanny Wilson on the condition of the Dover Elevator Company.

After lunch the commissioners viewed a drainage problem on the Dale Moore property.



***Winds force flags down***

11-11-82

**High winds this noon forced American Legion and VFW members to take down the flags on the Avenue of Flags at Pleasant Hill Cemetery. The flags were put up to observe Veterans Day and were to have flown from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, the high winds, which bent some of the flag poles to the ground forced the veterans to take them down early.**

# Gas bills up 4% for Concordians

11-9-82

Even though they will be higher than last year, natural gas bills in the Concordia area will remain among the lowest in the nation. Phil Posten, Concordia area manager for The Kansas Power and Light Company, says, "Customers on our main system will note a change of about four percent this November compared to October for the same amount of gas used. But that increase won't be nearly as much as in other parts of the state. Studies by the American Gas Association continually rank our rates as lowest among the utilities they survey," he noted.

Posten said the increase is a pass on of higher prices KPL must pay producers for gas under intrastate contracts. Because the amount of gas KPL is allowed to purchase from its least expensive source, the Hugoton Field in southwest Kansas, has been reduced by state government regulation, the company must use more expensive gas to make up the difference. This change accounts for more than half of the increase that will be seen on November bills.

Posten noted that about 75 percent of the total price paid by customers goes to producers for the purchase of gas. Expenses of operating the system, including maintenance, labor, taxes and the cost of money must be paid from the remaining 25 percent, he said.

"We know that more Kansans than ever before are facing budgetary problems due to the general economic slowdown, high employment rate and other economic factors," he said. "We want to do what we can to help our customers work out a plan through which they can adjust their budgets and take other steps that will allow them to work through these problems before the situation becomes drastic."

Posten said that KPL offers a variety of programs aimed at helping customers avoid problems caused by higher utility bills. Among the aids he cited was KPL's new levelized payment plan. That program allows customers to average their utility bills over a 12-month period, which will reduce monthly fluctuations in bills caused by weather variations and changing usage patterns. KPL will set up special payment plans for customers who have trouble paying for energy during times of highest usage.

He also noted KPL Customer Assistance Advisors and Energy Use Consultants have been specially trained to offer a variety of aids in reducing energy usage and dealing with other energy-related problems. These include free home energy checkups for residential customers under the "Save the Megawatts" program, free attic inspections and financing programs to help customers add attic insulation or replace old heating and cooling with new, efficient models.

Posten urged KPL customers with questions or concerns to contact their local KPL office this month to develop a special payment plan to deal with their problems before they worsen.

# Now is the time to prevent water line freeze-ups

11-11-82

As the cold winter months draw nearer the Concordia water department is emphasizing the importance of those city water users who have problems with winter freeze-ups to begin taking some preventative measures.

The water department is stressing that no longer will customers with problems be encouraged to run water to keep the lines from freezing and no longer will there be automatic rate adjustments for those who take that precaution.

The new water department policy approved by the city commission allows a consumer a reasonable period of time to remedy the freeze-up problem.

Adjustments will be made only upon the condition that a consumer makes an effort to correct the problem. For example if a consumer has had a service line that is susceptible to freezing each winter and no attempt has been made to correct the problem, no adjustment will be given this year or in the future.

If a consumer has not had a previous history of freeze-ups and does experience a problem this year, the consumer will be told to let the water run and a one time adjustment will be granted. The consumer will be encouraged to take the necessary preventative measures which might even include having the service line buried to a depth of below the frost line or four feet.

During the next winter if a freeze-up happens and the consumer demonstrates that substantial preventative measures were taken, an additional adjustment will be granted at the discretion of the city clerk.

The consumer again will be encouraged to take additional preventative measures. The consumer also will be advised that no future adjustments will be allowed in any event.

The new policy is attacking the problem of freeze-ups from the standpont of finding a permanent solution rather than a temporary solution for one winter season. The city has determined that the old policy was mostly counter productive because the user was not encouraged to take preventative measures; because it is expensive to all consumers to have additional water pumped, causing higher electric bills without producing additional revenue; because it is not a good water conservation practice; and because it encourages poor construction practices such as installing service lines too shallow or installation above the ground and unprotected from temperature extremes.

The water department points out that this policy applies only to freeze-ups on the consumer's portion of the water service line which extends from the valve to the house and includes the water lines inside the house.

Occasionally, a freeze-up will occur on the city's portion of a service which is the water line from the water main to the valve.

Even though the city no longer will use a welder to attempt to thaw a frozen water line, every effort will be made to maintain service to the consumer including making temporary connections to a neighboring property or meter pit. In this event the water might have to run to prevent the line from freezing.

In this instance the consumer's monthly water bill will be adjusted to equal an average monthly bill based on the consumer's use history.

After the spring thaw when the frost has left the ground, the water department will return to lower the service line to a depth below the frost line if possible.

Kansan 11-25-82

# Anti-Freeze Tips For Water Lines and Meters

Prepared by
David Wheaton,
Concordia Director of Utilities

Consumers:

The protection of in-property water lines from freezing elements is, by city ordinance, the responsibility of the consumer. This also includes the meter and meter pit, usually located some where in the front yard.

Most frozen water lines occur on a consumer's private line and as a result, the city's supply line will soon freeze thereafter. This year, as last year, the city will no longer thaw service lines. Therefore, it is EXTREMELY important that consumers take precautions to prevent this from occurring. The following anti-freeze tips can help you to avoid the inconvenience, the damage and expense created by frozen water pipes and the water meters:

—Make sure all outside faucets are drained and shut off.

—Seal cracks in walls, doors, windows; keep basement and garage doors and windows tightly closed throughout the winter.

—Insulate pipes in, or on, outside walls, crawl spaces, attics basements, garages or any other unheated area where heat cannot circulate.

—Make sure that the water pipe in the yard (from cut-off to house) is 4 feet deep or deeper. The frost line has gotten as deep as 3 feet in the past few years.

—Repair the outside meter pit. Seal cracks in the meter pit vault which might allow air to enter.

—Make sure that the level of dirt on the inside of the pit is deeper than the frost line.

—If necessary, provide a non-moisture holding insulation in the meter pit to prevent the frost on the meter pit walls from "jumping" to the meter and water lines. This material and pipe insulation can be obtained from your local lumber yards and/or hardware stores. DO NOT use batt insulation, straw, blankets, newspapers, towels, rugs, etc., as these will absorb moisture and freeze the water line.

Remember, preventing winter freeze-ups is easier (and less costly) than repairing the damage caused by them. By taking precautions NOW, you can avoid doing it when the weather gets really cold.

Mary Elizabeth Malia

Kansan 11-11-82

# New Librarian Begins Duties

The Frank Carlson Library board has hired Mary Elizabeth Malia as the new librarian to succeed David Conlin who resigned last spring to accept the librarian job at Pittsburg. The new librarian began her duties here Nov. 8.

Miss Malia was born in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1954, and was raised in Spokane, Wash. She received a BA degree in English literature with a minor in English history from Whitworth College, Spokane, Wash. and an MA degree in librarianship and information management, last August from the University of Denver, Colo. She was a member of the Spokane Symphony Chorale, and a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority in Spokane.

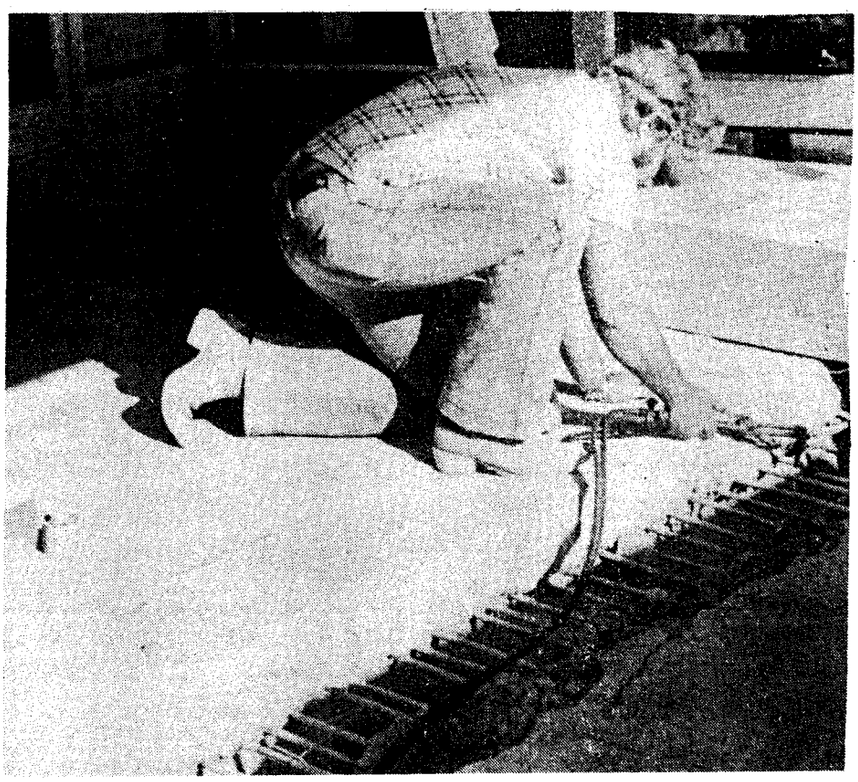
The new Concordia resident worked at the Spokane Public Library, Penrose Library at the University of Denver, Marathon Oil Co. in Littleton, Colo., and the Lamar, Colo. Public Library before coming here.

She states she is very impressed with the Frank Carlson Library, and is anxious to find a niche in the community. Her hobbies are singing, sewing, reading, combat pistol shooting, amateaur theatricals, and writing. He father lives in Spokane, and her brother lives in Seattle, Wash.

An open house will be held at the library, Thursday, Dec. 2, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. as a get-acquainted function for Miss Malia. The library board invites the public to stop in the library and meet Elizabeth.

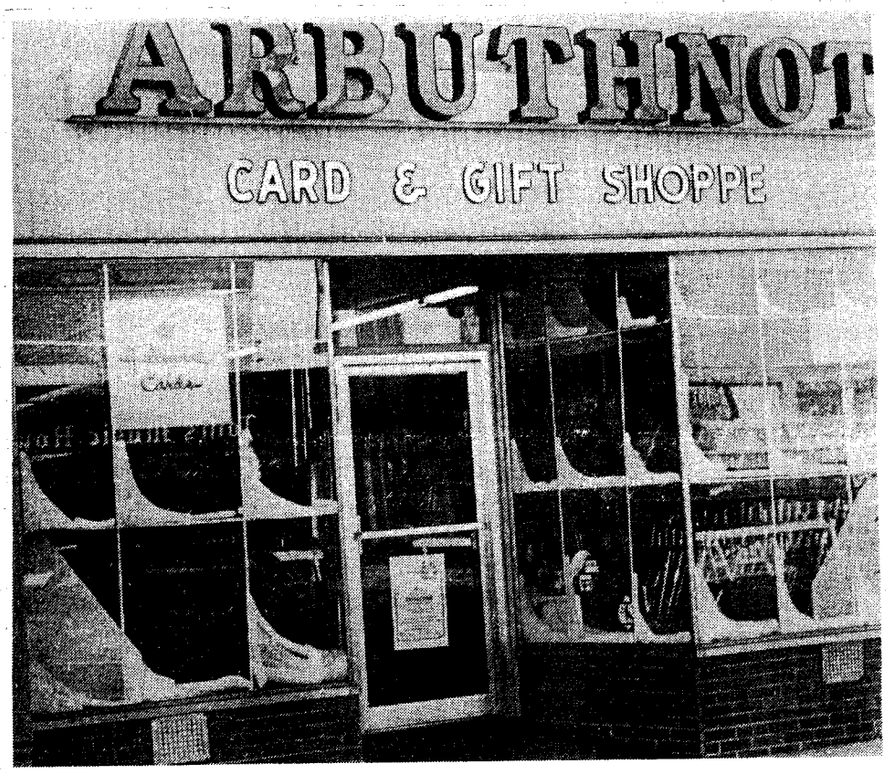
***Getting ready to pour concrete***

A construction crew was getting ready this week to pour a concrete slab for Hardee's at the Concordia Shopping Plaza. The 4,000 sq. ft. prefab building should be ready for opening the middle of December. (Blade photo by Chris Black) Blade - 11-15-83



***Some things aren't easy***

This construction worker was using a torch to cut through the steel reinforcement rods in the concrete sidewalk in front of Wilson's Furniture Store. The concrete in front of Wilson's had heavier reinforcement than the rest of the sidewalk because of an old coal storage room below the surface. The work is being done as part of the downtown redevelopment project. 11-17-82




***Getting ready for the season***

**The first store window decorations to appear in Concordia for the Christmas shopping season are at Arbuthnot's Card and Gift Shoppe. Merchants are being asked to do a little more decorating of their store fronts this season because the usual downtown Christmas lights will not go up because of the downtown redevelopment project.**

11-19-82

11-18-82

## Ask Businesses To Light Up For Christmas

The Concordia Chamber of Commerce will not be installing Christmas lights in the downtown area this year due to the improvement project that has been underway here and not being able to use the light poles.

All businesses are urged to decorate and outline their windows and even the outside of their buildings with lights to give Concordia an impressive festive look during the holiday shopping season, urges Leon Gennette, Chamber executive.

Potential Christmas shoppers in Concordia are advised that the construction work will end in a few days to keep the inconvenience to shoppers in the downtown area to a minimum.

**Santa Here Next Friday**

The Chamber's official opening of the Christmas season will be a visit from Santa Claus on Friday, Nov. 26. He will arrive at 6:30 p.m. and pass out treats to the children of the area at the usual location—Peoples Savings and Loan foyer at the corner of 6th and Washington.

11-18-82

## Brown Grand Contributions Are Needed

Persons needing last minute tax deductions before the end of 1982 may want to consider the Brown Grand Theatre. Board members will be calling on friends of the Brown Grand for any size donation to aid with operating expenses for 1983. Your financial support, as well as your presence at Brown Grand functions, reports the Board, will be greatly appreciated. Any tax deductable donation, whether $10 or $100, will be put to good use for the continuing support of the Brown Grand Theatre.

Contributions may be made by contacting any Board member or the Chamber of Commerce.

Send "The Kansan" to anyone, anywhere!

## Concordia businesses urged to decorate for Christmas

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Agricultural Division of the Chamber of Commerce will meet Friday morning at 7 a.m. at the Chamber office.

11-18-83

## Brown Grand seeks donations

If you need a last minute tax deduction before the end of 1982, consider a contribution to the Brown Grand Theatre. Board members will be calling on friends of the Brown Grand for any size donation to aid with operating expenses for 1983. As you well know, the cost of maintaining your own home keeps rising and the same applies to the Brown Grand.

Your financial support, as well as your presence at Brown Grand functions, will be greatly appreciated. Any tax deductible donation, whether $10 or $100, will be put to good use for the continuing support of the Brown Grand Theatre. If you wish to make a contribution contact any Board member or the Chamber of Commerce.

11-18-83

Republic — Nov. 18 1982

# City Levies Additional Sales Tax at Meeting

Concordia City Commissioners had a short session Wednesday afternoon but passed two ordinances important to local residents.

The first action was to approve an ordinance increasing the sales tax in the city one-half of one percent effective Feb. 1, 1983. The current total of 3½% sales tax goes to 4% in Concordia next February.

The next ordinance was one repealing an ordinance passed last May 19 levying a city gross earnings tax on intangibles for the year 1983 and thereafter. City Manager Carl Metzger said "This action is possible as a result of the passage of the one-half percent local sales tax."

Concordia voters approved the additional ½c sales tax by a 1,739-748 vote Nov. 2 after the commission earlier had offered a trade-off—higher sales tax for no city intangibles tax. The commission was asked by a group of citizens to drop the intangibles last summer but felt it could not be eliminated without a replacement source of revenue, this the additional sales tax.

As far as the city is concerned taxpayers have received their last billing on the intangibles tax which is received Nov. 1 with real estate and personal property tax bills. However, the city has received only 2¼% of the 3% tax levied on intangible income, with the county receiving the other ¾%. As of now, county (and city) residents will still have to file the intangibles form next spring and be taxed the ¾% instead of 3%. The county commission could change this however by repealing their share.

The city commission also awarded a bid for a curbing project. Hood Construction was low bidder and received the contract for new concrete curbing on the east side of State street from 17th north approximateley two blocks. Hood's bid was $8,088.24, just under the $8,094.08 listed as the engineer's estimate. There were two other bidders: B.G. Construction, $8,462; and Goff Construction, $9,756.

Hood expects to begin the project Nov. 29 with construction time set at 30 days.

The commission will not hold a study session next week. Their next regular meeting will be on Dec. 1.

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The commission held an adjourned meeting last Friday noon taking up several items of business.

The commission accepted a petition requesting the annexation of a tract of land just north of the Cloud County shop building and yards at the northwest corner of town. Commissioner Lee Doyen moved that the city commission look favorably upon the petition requested by realtor Phil Detrixhe providing the county commission has no objection. The county approval is a prerequisite to city annexation, David Retter, city attorney, explained.

Wynn Phipps appeared before the commission in reference to a nusiance abatement notice he received recently on 429 W. 12th. Phipps agreed a nuisance perhaps exists but asked for six months additional time to allow him time to erect a garage on the property with the lumber.

Mayor Greg Hattan said he had visited the site and a skunk ran out at him, the property was a mess, a wire from a falling fence was dangerous, and the mess had been present for six years.

Commissioner Doyen said it's time to clean up the property as Phipps has been served other similar notices six or seven times and further, than another house Phipps has an interest in is going down hill fast and there could be notices on that property in a year or two.

Phipps explained he did not now have the time to build the proposed garage and if the city hauled off the lumber he would

# Intangibles tax repealed by city

11-18-82

The Concordia city commissioners yesterday approved ordinances which established an additional one half of one percent city wide sales tax and repealed the 2.25 percent city intangibles tax.

The sales tax question was approved by the voters of Concordia by a vote of 1,739 to 748 in the Nov. 2 general election. The commissioners had promised to repeal the intangibles tax if the sales tax question was approved.

Concordia merchants will be collecting the additional one half of one percent sales tax on Feb. 1, 1983. Concordia residents will not have to pay any city intangibles tax beginning in 1983. However, those persons paying only the first half of their 1982 intangibles tax will still have to pay the second half in June of 1983.

In other business the commissioners awarded Hood Construction the contract to replace the curbing and guttering on the east side of State Street from about 15th Street south to 17th Street. Hood's low bid on the project was $8,094.08 which was just below the engineer's estimate of $8,088.24. Others bidding on the project and their bids were: Goff Construction, $9,756.33 and B.G. Construction, $8,462.51.

The city will pay for the removal of the curbing and guttering as part of its new policy to encourage renovation of deteriorating curbing and guttering in the community. The city's share of the cost will be $2,351.25.

# Commissioners act on annexation request

The Concordia city commission in a special meeting this noon gave tentative approval to the annexation of a tract of land.

The annexation petition was filed on the behalf of Mary Heeler. The land is not contiguous to the city limits and the annexation must be approved by the county commissioners.

The motion to express the commission's favorable opinion of the annexation petition, should the county pass a resolution expressing its agreement with the annexation, was made by commissioner Lee Doyen. The motion was seconded by commissioner Ernest Girard. Mayor Greg Hattan did not vote on the motion.

City manager Carl Metzger said that if the land is annexed, the annexation would be granted without benefit of city services. He said that since the land is not contiguous to the city limits the city is not required by state statute to provide the services. Metzger said that the land owner was requesting the annexation so that the property would be subject to federal flood insurance and so a mortgage could be secured by the prospective property buyer.

In other business the commissioners gave Winn Phipps until Monday, Nov. 22 to clear up the debris and scrap lumber in the backyard of the property at 429 W. 12th.

The commissioners generally were in agreement that Phipps has let the problem go on for too long and that it was time to get something done.

Phipps told the commissioners that a week ago was the first that he knew of the intent of the abatement notice served on his wife. He said he thought it was a follow up on a previous notice concerning weeds which he had cut.

Phipps proposed to the commissioners that he be given six months to clean up the property. He said his plan was to build a 24'x24' garage on the property using the scrap lumber from the yard. He said that because he is a retail merchant and because it is the middle of the Christmas season, he couldn't physically clean up the property at this time. He also said that he did not have the financing to pay someone to clean the property either.

Phipps said that if the city cleans the property he would lose a considerable amount of valuable lumber in addition to the cost of paying the city for the service.

Dr. Hattan said that he visited the property last night and a skunk ran out of a woodpile at him. "The lumber has been there six years and I believe something needs to be done now," he said. "The skunk certainly presents a health hazard and I don't know how we can put it off any longer.

Doyen said that the city has no assurance that Phipps would do anything about the problem within six months. "We've had to contact you six or seven times with notices to get anything done on that property," he said. "It seems we have to serve some kind of notice on you to get you to do anything."

Girard said that it seemed to him that at least the lumber could be stacked in piles.

The commissioners directed Mike Peterson, of the city staff to inspect the property on Nov. 22 and then have city crews haul off anything which he believes should be carried away.

The commissioners also approved the purchase of a new backhoe from Martin Tractor for $55,090.00. Martin Tractor is allowing $28,751 on a trade-in backhoe making the cost to the city $26,339. Metzger said that Martin is allowing a trade-in of nearly two and one times the original cost of the nine-year old backhoe.

The city is purchasing the piece of equipment on a three-year lease-purchase plan and will finance the purchase from the reserve equipment fund, Metzger said. 11-12-82

11-18-82

# Provide New Phone Service

Concordia telephone users with push-button phones can now place a call billed to a calling card number without operator assistance, Southwestern Bell has announced.

The new automated service allows the caller to key in his or her calling card number on Zero-Plus long distance calls without reciting the number to an operator. Such a call is less expensive than one placed through an operator and provides more security since the calling card number doesn't have to be spoken.

A caller using the service dials zero, plus the telephone number. As soon as the caller hears a tone, the calling card number is dialed and billing is handled automatically. An operator will come on line to assist the caller if necessary.

Automated calling card service is scheduled to be implemented in most Bell-served exchanges in Kansas by March of 1983 and nationwide by next June.

Southwestern Bell customers who do not have a calling card can request one by calling their telephone business office.

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Commissioner Doyen said it's time to clean up the property as Phipps has been served other similar notices six or seven times and further, than another house Phipps has an interest in is going down hill fast and there could be notices on that property in a year or two.

Phipps explained he did not now have the time to build the proposed garage and if the city hauled off the lumber he would lose valuable building materials and he also could not afford the removal expense. The city was to begin the clean-up on Nov. 15.

Commissioner Ernest Girard also agreed the property needs attention after seeing it, but suggested Phipps be allow another week to salvage materials he wants to save. This idea was agreed to by the other two commissioners.

Mike Peterson, a member of the city staff working on the pro-

annexation must be approved by the county commissioners.

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# City receives $812,600 grant

11-19-82

Concordia has been awarded a $812,600 community block development grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, according to Mike Peterson, administrative assistant to city manager Carl Metzger.

Concordia received the largest single grant of any city or county in Kansas. Thirty-eight Kansas communities and counties were awarded a total of $16.8 million from HUD. The only other grant awarded in north central Kansas was a $206,900 grant to Jewell County.

Peterson said that the city has not received a breakdown on the amounts awarded for each of the four application areas; however, since Concordia received only $400 less than it requested there can't be much deviation of allocations in the four category areas.

Peterson said that the money will be used in Concordia for low to moderate income housing rehabilitation, interim financing for low to moderate income housing, rehabilitation, water line improvements and storm sewer improvements.

He said that the city will be able to rehabilitate between 40 and 50 houses with the $250,000 requested. The interim assistance request of $20,000 will be used to provide emergency financing for housing rehabilitation repairs such as furnace replacements, Peterson said.

The water line improvements will include new water lines as well as improvements to existing lines, Peterson said. He said that a new 12 inch line will be constructed on Hill Street from 13th to 18th Street and that a new 10 inch line will be constructed on 13th Street from O Street to L Street north of the East Hills Mobile Home Park. The sizes of water lines on 7th Street from Doster to Industrial Road and on Church Street from 7th to 11th Street will be increased to provide better fire protection in the area. Peterson said. He also said new mains would be placed in Doster Street and Industrial Road.

A new water main will be constructed on 2nd Street from Kansas to Valley which will solve the problem of winter freeze ups in that area, he said.

The storm sewer construction provided in the grant will be on East 5th from Spruce to Valley Street, according to Peterson.

Peterson pointed out that the storm sewer and water line improvements are projects which eventually would have had to be paid for by Concordia taxpayers had the city not received the federal funds for the projects. Without the federal funds it is doubtful that the city would undertake the housing rehabilitation program which has already provided for the rehabilitation of 65 houses in Concordia with funds received from other grants, he said.

Peterson said that $50,000 was requested in the grant application for administration. He said that this request is proportionately lower than the other grant applications received by HUD. He said that the administration funds pay all related salaries and all administrative costs.

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

Beloit Daily Call 11-19-82

# Jewell County, Concordia recipients of HUD grants

**Compiled by AP and Call staff**

Jewell County and the City of Concordia are recipients of major federal grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Beloit, Delphos, Hunter, Glen Elder and Downs are among the communities which missed out.

Federal grants totaling $16.8 million for community development projects in 38 Kansas communities and counties were released Nov. 18 by HUD.

The funds, made available through the Community Development Block Grant program can be used by local governments for a variety of projects mostly aimed at low and moderate income people.

The Topeka offices of Kansas Sens. Nancy Kassebaum and Bob Dole announced the release of the grants.

Jewell County is to receive $206,900 and the city of Concordia $812,600. The Concordia grant is the largest given and Coffeyville with $810,000 is next.

The North Central Regional Planning Commission assisted Jewell County with preparation of its application.

The Jewell grant will go for renovation and construction of waste disposal facilities at Dubuque Packing in Mankato and construction of new sewage lagoons for treatment.

The plant had threatened to shut down last spring if help for the necessary project did not come through.

Mike Peterson, administrative assistant for the city of Concordia, said the funds will be used there primarily to replace inadequate water lines to provide for fire protection for one-third of the community. Funds will also be used for housing rehabilitation for low and moderate income persons, storm sewers to do away with open ditches and housing rehabilitation for low and moderate income persons.

Peterson, who was with NCKRPC 16-months until April, 1979 when he went to Concordia, handled the city's successful application.

The Fort Hays State University graduate also attended NCKAVTS. His mother, Mildred, is a teacher at the Youth Center at Beloit and his father, the late Francis D. (Pete) Peterson, was formerly a NCKAVTS instructor.

John Cyr, economic development planner for the North Central Planning Commission, said Beloit's application ranked 64th in among about 186 requests for "single-purpose" grants. Twenty-two was the cutoff for those types of grants and of eight plans written up by the Planning Commission, seven were in the top 50 percent.

Beloit's application, under economic development, included renovation of the old Beloit creamery to improve appearance and provide business headquarters for Blass Construction, housing rehabilitation, Weber Implement building addition and improving water runoff on West 8th.

Glen Elder was 33rd in a project for street and water system improvement, Delphos 80th for streets and a swimming pool, Hunter 32nd for streets and a community center.

Downs also had an economic development application in and was 87th on the list.

Other area communities receiving grants were Salina, $669,000 and Solomon $480,775.

# City Awarded Large Block Grant from H.U.D.

The city of Concordia has received another community development block grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mike Peterson, administrative assistant to City Manager Carl Metzger, said he was advised last Thursday the city's application for $812,600 had been approved for the year 1982.

Peterson advised Concordia received the largest single grant of any city or county in Kansas. A total of $16.8 million was awarded to 38 Kansas towns and counties. Only $400 was cut from the original amount applied for.

Peterson advised the grant will be used for low to moderate income housing rehabilitation, interim financing for low to moderate income housing rehabilition, water line improvements, and storm sewer improvements.

Following are some of the items the money will be spent on:

—$250,000 to rehabilitate between 40 and 50 houses.

—$20,000 for interim assistance for major purchases such as new heating furnace, etc.

—New 12-inch water line on Hill from 13th to 18th Streets.

—New 10-inch water line on 13th, from O to L Streets, north of East Hills Mobile Home Park.

—Increase the size of water mains on 7th, from Doster to Industrial Road, and on Church from 7th to 11th Streets. These improvements will not only improve water service in these areas but improve much needed fire protection on the east edge of town.

—Also new water mains on Doster and Industrial Road.

—New water main on 2nd, from Kansas to Valley Streets.

—Storm sewer construction on East 5th, from Spruce to Valley Streets.

—$50,000 for administrative expenses including all related salaries and costs.

Peterson pointed out that the various water and storm sewer improvements are projects which Concordians would eventually have to pay in the form of taxes if the city did not receive the grants.

The $812,600 brings the total of federal grants received by the city the past few years to over $2 million.

Kansan 11-25-82

# Concordia receives $812,600 block grant

Solomon Valley Post 11-25-82

The City of Concordia was notified last week that they will be receiving a federal block grant of $812,600 for community development projects. Jewell County will receive a grant of $206,900.

Concordia will be receiving the largest sum of money of the 38 grants that were approved by the federal government. Over 300 communities in Kansas made application for this money and competition for the money was very tough.

Mike Peterson, Administrative Assistant for the City of Concordia, said the funds will be used for several different projects. Engineering work should begin around the first of the year.

One of Concordia's projects will be the rehabilitation of housing occupied by low and moderate income families. They expect to repair between forty and fifty homes. It is expected that a large portion of the funds will be used to rehabilitate homes for lower fuel consumption. Many of the clients are elderly.

"This project of rehabilitating homes is something permanent and the benefits will be felt for many years," Peterson said.

Major water line improvements are also being planned. This will provide more adequate water supplies, and fire protection for the industrial section should be greatly improved.

A major storm sewer improvement project is also planned. Some of the open ditches will be replaced with concerete boxes. This is a big and expensive project because pipes will have to be built in place.

Peterson said that over the years Concordia has received over two million dollars from federal grants. Around a million dollars of that money has been used for capital improvements.

"This is money that our citizens have not had to raise by local taxes or by setting up special property tax assessments," Peterson said. He said he expects the federal government to continue to spend money for these types of grants for community improvement.

Peterson made the application for the funds. He said that Concordia has continually requested money in areas that are important for Housing and Urban Development. Funds that have been received previously have been used for good purposes with efficiency and they have been used quickly. "Perhaps that is why we received this large grant," he said. Peterson was with the North Central Regional Planning Commission in Beloit for sixteen months before he took the job in Concordia. His father is the late Francis Peterson, Vo-Tech instructor; and his mother, Mildred, teaches at the Youth Center.

The $206,900 that Jewell County was awarded will be used for renovation and construction of waste disposal facilities at Dubuque Packing Plant in Mankato, and for new sewage lagoons.

Beloit had made an application for these federal funds, but was too far down on the list to receive money. Beloit had proposed renovation of the old Beloit creamery to improve the downtown appearance and provide business headquarters; housing rehabilitation; and an addition to Weber Implement and improving water runoff on West 8th. Glen Elder did not receive funds for street and water system improvements. Hunter was also too low down on the list for street improvements and a community center.

Representative Pat Roberts notified the cities of the award money that will be released very soon.

11-18-82 Kansan

## NATURAL GAS BILLS AMONG LOWEST HERE

Even though they will be higher than last year, natural gas bills in the Concordia area will remain among the lowest in the nation. Phil Posten, Concordia area manager for The Kansas Power and Light Company, says, "Customers on our main system will note a change of about four percent this November compared to October for the same amount of gas used. But that increase won't be nearly as much as in other parts of the state. Studies by the American Gas Association continually rank our rates as lowest among the utilities they survey," he noted.

Posten said the increase is a pass on of higher prices KPL must pay producers for gas under intrastate contracts. Because the amount of gas KPL is allowed to purchase from its least expensive source, the Hugoton Field in southwest Kansas, has been reduced by state government regulation, the company must use more expensive gas to make up the difference. This change accounts for more than half of the increase that will be seen on November bills.

Posten noted that about 75% of the total price paid by customers goes to producers for the purchase of gas. Expenses of operating the system, including maintenance, labor, taxes and the cost of money must be paid from the remaining 25%, he said.

"We know that more Kansans than ever before are facing budgetary problems due to the general economic slowdown, high unemployment rate and other economic factors," he said. "We want to do what we can to help our customers work out a plan through which they can adjust their budgets and take other steps that will allow them to work through these problems before the situation becomes drastic."

Posten said that KPL offers a variety of programs aimed at helping customers avoid problems caused by higher utility bills. Among the aids he cited was KPL's new levelized payment plan. That program allows customers to average their utility bills over a 12-month period, which will reduce monthly fluctuations in bills caused by weather variations and changing usage patterns. KPL will set up special payment plans for customers who have trouble paying for energy during times of highest usage.

He also noted Customer Assistance Advisor and Energy Use Consultants have been specially trained to offer a variety of aids in reducing energy usage and dealing with other energy-related problems. These include free home energy checkups for residential customers under the "Save the Megawatts" program, free attic inspections and financing programs to help customers add attic insulation or replace old heating and cooling with new, efficient models.

Posten urged KPL customers with questions or concerns to contact their local KPL office this month to develop a special payment plan to deal with their problems before they worsen.

# Arrest two men after drugs found

11-19-82

Two Concordia men were arrested yesterday afternoon as a result of ongoing drug investigations by the police department and the Cloud County sheriff's office, according to police chief Dennis Rohr.

Manfred Cooper, 30, was arrested after various drugs were found in a search of his residence at 301 E. 13th, Rohr said. Eric L. Chavey, 23, also was arrested as a result of the related investigation, Rohr said.

Specific charges will be determined by the county attorney, according to Rohr.

Rohr emphasized that the success the police and sheriff's officers have had in the investigation of drug violations is related to the money made available through the drug investigation fund. This fund is supported by contributions and the country and western shows sponsored by the law enforcement agencies, he said.

"We appreciate the public support we have received in the past and those who deal in drugs know that Concordia is not a safe place to conduct illegal drug activities," Rohr said. "The police, sheriff's and county attorney's offices have been working together and continued emphasis on enforcement will definitely benefit the community."

11-18-82

## NOV. 26 IS CITY AND COUNTY HOLIDAY

Friday, Nov. 26 is a holiday for both city and county officials and employees. The city hall and courthouse will be closed that day, as well as Thanksgiving and the usual Saturday and Sunday.

The employees elect to take the Friday after Thanksgiving in lieu of another holiday during the year.

11-18-82

# K.D.O.T. Plans Public Meeting in Concordia

John B. Kemp, secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation has announced a public meeting will be held in Concordia, Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss traffic controls at the junction of US-24 and US-81 in Cloud County about 14 miles south of Concordia.

The meeting will be held in the Little Theater at the Cloud County Community College, Concordia.

Citizens attending the meeting will have the opportunity to make recommendations for any improvements that would influence the movement of traffic and address safety considerations.

Department of Transportation personnel will be present at the meeting to answer questions and discuss recent changes in traffic controls at this highway junction.

# Work Ends Downtown

Construction and sidewalk rebuilding work has stopped in downtown Concordia to await the arrival of spring. The work, approximately one-half completed, will begin about xvbzxvbz x(F will resume about April 1, reported City Manager Carl Metzger Wednesday. He said the date of resumption will depend on the severity of the winter and the weather conditions around April 1.

CONSTRUCTION WORK HALTS—Work on the downtown improvement project has ended until spring. Bill Smith, left, and Ken Goff applied temporary patchwork last week for the winter. Kansan 12-2-82 —Photo by Wm. DeArmond

# City Has New Ice Control Plan

Concordia City Manager Carl Metzger has announced a new program to control ice on sidewalks and is asking the cooperation of the downtown merchants. Purpose of the new plan is to protect the new concrete sidewalks, curbs, and gutters in the central business district.

In the past the city and merchants have used salt to melt ice and snow on sidewalks. "Applying salt or salt substitute products to the new concrete before it cures may damage it," Metzger points out. "Discoloration and spalling of the concrete may result." Salt used on old sidewalks can wash off into the new curbing and gutters.

The city manager said the city business personnel not use salt this winter on 6th street. As an alternative Metzger recommends using sand to supply better traction on the ice and snow.

The city will deliver to each store about 100 pounds of sand that can be used in place of salt. Additional sand will be available from the city if individual supplies run out.

The city manager said the city will be using sand on 6th Street from Lincoln to State. "In the event icy conditions persist, a light coat of salt will be applied to the street surface," said Metzger. "Salt will only be applied when absolutely necessary and then only in small concentrations."

Kansan 12-2-82

# City authorizes HUD grant agreement

Blade 12-2-82

The Concordia city commissioners yesterday approved a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute a funding agreement between the city and the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a comprehensive small cities community development block grant in the amount of $812,600.

City manager Carl Metzger explained that HUD had approved a grant of $812,600 to Concordia to be used during a 12-month period between Dec. 15, 1982 and December 15, 1983. He said that the programs funded under the grant include interim assistance, housing rehabilitation, storm sewer construction, water system improvements, and administration.

Metzger told the commissioners that letters have been mailed to all residents living on the west side of Third Avenue from Highway 9 to 10th Street explaining that the city is considering annexing their property. He said that the letter explained to the residents that they can seek voluntary annexation or that the city through a five-step process can annex the property.

City attorney David Retter told the commissioners that if the residents didn't seek voluntary annexation, the city could annex the properties by preparing a service plan and report, passing a resolution announcing the city's intent to annex the property, hold a public hearing on the annexation, and then pass an ordinance annexing the land.

He said that after the ordinance is approved for annexation there is a 30-day appeal period during which time the property owners can seek recourse by filing action in district court. He said that there is a possibility that a public hearing on the annexation could be held by Feb. 9, 1983.

Mayor Greg Hattan said that the city is considering annexing the land because the residences on the west side of Third Avenue are receiving the benefits of most city services and are not paying any city property taxes. "Most of those properties either receive city water and sewer service or both, the police regularly patrol the street and the city maintains the street," he said. "The only service they don't receive is fire protection."

Commissioner Lee Doyen pointed out if the properties were annexed the home owners would receive a substantial reduction in the homeowners insurance policies because of the added fire protection.

Metzger pointed out that only the land which has houses on the lots would be annexed. That land bordering Third Avenue which is agricultural land would not be annexed, he said.

The commisisoners approved recommendations from the city's alcohol fund advisory committee for the distribution of $9,995.00 collected in local alcoholic liquor tax.

An award of $2,000 was granted to the Community Resources Council to be used to pay expenses for transportation of patients under treatment for drug or alcohol related problems to treatment centers outside the community. This fund also could be used to provide emergency assistance to families of patients involved in treatment programs, Metzger explained.

An award of $5,845.00 was granted to the Pawnee Mental Health Center to fund a community preventative intervention program. This program, Metzger said, would be designed to serve parents and older teenagers for the purpose of early diagnosis and intervention for the prevention of abuse of drugs and alcohol. "Volunteers and paid staff would work with civic organizations, fraternal service organizations, churches, and other groups interested in substance abuse," he said.

Metzger said that approximately $845.00 of the grant would be used for a training program for the health center personnel working with drug and alcohol abuse. This program, he said, is offered through the Prairie View Mental Health Center located at Newton.

U.S.D. 333 will receive a $1,000 grant to be used for materials for use in an alcohol education project. Items to be purchased include cassette film strips, slides, film rental, records, books, periodicals, and computer retrieved information.

The commissioners approved the final costs of $7,601.78 for an alley project behind the Wesleyan Church between Cedar and State Streets. One hundred percent of the costs will be paid by the benefit district.

Boyd Dochow, representing the church, appeared at the meeting to express his appreciation to the city for the alley project.

Metzger told the commissioners that work on the downtown improvement project has been halted for the winter months. He said that work will resume on the project about April 1, 1983.

Metzger also told the commissioners that each merchant in the downtown area has received a 100-pound bag of sand to be used on the new sidewalks rather than salt when the sidewalks become covered with ice. He said that the new concrete has not sufficiently cured and that salt would cause some deterioriation of the concrete.

Metzger said that the city has prepared a stockpile of sand and then when and if the merchants run out of the sand which has been delivered to their stores more sand can be obtained from the city.

The city manager said that sand will be used on Sixth Street in the downtown area this winter rather than salt because the salt could damage the new curbing and guttering. He said some salt might be used on Sixth Street if conditions become too severe.

# Anti-Freeze Tips For Water Lines and Meters

12-9-82

Prepared by
David Wheaton,
Concordia Director of Utilities

Consumers:

The protection of in-property water lines from freezing elements is, by city ordinance, the responsibility of the consumer. This also includes the meter and meter pit, usually located somewhere in the front yard.

Most frozen water lines occur on a consumer's private line and as a result, the city's supply line will soon freeze thereafter. This year, as last year, the city will no longer thaw service lines. Therefore, it is EXTREMELY important that consumers take precautions to prevent this from occurring. The following anti-freeze tips can help you to avoid the inconvenience, the damage and expense created by frozen water pipes and the water meters:

—Make sure all outside faucets are drained and shut off.

—Seal cracks in walls, doors, windows; keep basement and garage doors and windows tightly closed throughout the winter.

—Insulate pipes in, or on, outside walls, crawl spaces, attics basements, garages or any other house) is 4 feet deep or deeper. The frost line has gotten as deep as 3 feet in the past few years.

—Repair the outside meter pit. Seal cracks in the meter pit vault which might allow air to enter.

—Make sure that the level of dirt on the inside of the pit is deeper than the frost line.

—If necessary, provide a non-moisture holding insulation in the meter pit to prevent the frost on the meter pit walls from "jumping" to the meter and water lines. This material and pipe insulation can be obtained from your local lumber yards and/or hardware stores. DO NOT use batt insulation, straw, blankets, newspapers, towels, rugs, etc., as these will absorb moisture and freeze the water line.

Remember, preventing winter freeze-ups is easier (and less costly) than repairing the damage caused by them. By taking precautions NOW, you can avoid doing it when the weather gets really cold.

# Uri appointed municipal judge

12-8-82

**Larry Uri has been appointed municipal court judge replacing Bill Bryant who resigned, according to an announcement made yesterday by city manager Carl Metzger.**

**Bryant resigned the position because he has accepted employment in Marysville and will be moving his family there.**

**Uri has practiced law in Concordia since 1976 and is a partner in the law firm of Paulsen, Buechel, Swenson, Uri, and Brewer Chartered.**

**Uri is a graduate of Benedictine College in Atchison and of the University of Kansas School of Law.**

# Uri Named City Judge

Concordia attorney Larry Uri has been appointed as the new municipal judge here. The appointment was made and announced Tuesday by Concordia City Manager Carl Metzger. Uri replaces Bill Bryant who recently moved to Marysville with his family.

Uri is a graduate of Benedictine College, Atchison, and is a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Law in 1976. He has practiced law in Concordia and Cloud County since 1976, and is a partner in the law firm of Paulsen, Buechel, Swenson Uri and Brewer, Chartered.

Uri has served as judge pro-tem since Dec. 1, and will now assume all duties of the municipal judgship.

12-9-82

# Straight pins found in supermarket rolls

#12-14-82

Cloud County Attorney C. L. Laman reports that an investigation concerning two straight pins discovered in a dinner roll purchased at a local supermarket has determined that the package was tampered with after it was placed on the shelf for sale.

The package had two holes in the bottom where the pins had been pushed through it head first and lodged in the roll. Fortunately, they were discovered before the roll was eaten.

All supermarket personnel in the Cloud County area should be aware of this incident and report any suspicious activities to the Law Enforcement Center or Sheriff Fred Modlin.

All consumers should carefully examine their cellophane wrapped purchases to make sure they are factory sealed without any punctures or tears. Any defective items should be reported to the supermarket manager immediately.

# City Allocates Liquor Tax Fund To Agencies

12-2-83
Kansan

Concordia City Commissioners Wednesday allocated nearly $10,000 to three local non-profit and governmental units for use in alcholic treatment programs or alcohol education.

The money is allocated by the state from alcohol tax and can be used only on the alcohol related programs. City Manager Carl Metzger said the city's alcohol tax money will no longer be allocated to towns our size in the future, but rather will be given to county commissioners to allocate in a similar manner.

Metzger said three groups had requested funds from the city's allocation—the Chemical Dependency Committee of the Community Resources Council, Pawnee Mental Health Center, and Unified School District 333. An advisory committee composed of Commissioner Ernest Girard, Police Chief Dennis Rohr and the city manager made the following recommendations which were approved by the city commission:

—Community Resources Council, $2,000: uses; to pay expenses for transportation of patients under treatment for drug or alcohol related problems to treatment centers outside this area, and provide emergency assistance to families of patients.

—Community Resources Council and Pawnee Mental Health Center, $5,000: uses; for a community preventive intervention program designed to serve parents and older teenagers with main purpose of early diagnosis and prevention of abuse of drugs and alcohol. $845 for a training program for the PMHC personnel working with drug and alcohol abuse.

USD 333—$1,150: uses; to purchase educational materials including cassette film strips, slides, film rental, records, books, periodicals, and computer retrival system. $1,000 for expenses related to in-service workshops and formal presentations.

Total of the allocations is $9,995.

City Manager Metzger said approximately $4,500 is left in the city's fund. It will be used as a contingency fund and some will be used by the police department who also does a small amount of work with the drug and alcohol programs.

### Annexation Contemplated

The city manager reported letters had been sent to property owners along the west side of 3rd Avenue from approximately 10th to 4th streets asking if the owners would be interested in voluntary annexation to the city. Metzger said five of the approximately ten landowners had responded thus far to the inquiry.

Mayor Greg Hattan pointed out the property owners along the west side of 3rd Ave. basically receive most city services such as water, sewer, ambulance service, police protection, and others. Commissioner Lee Doyen pointed out insurance rates would be reduced for homeowners in the area annexation is proposed and also persons having intangible income would not have to pay 2.25% of the current 3% if they were in the city limits.

If in the city, the property owners would be assessed the same property tax levy other Concordians pay.

City attorney David Retter outlined a five-step plan the commission could use if property owners do not agree to voluntary annexation. This includes a public hearing and opportunity to appeal by affected property owners.

The commission is also investigating annexing other similar properties adjacent to the city and receiving most city services.

In other business, the commission approved a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute an agreement with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the community development block grant. The city was recently notified it will receive a grant of $812,600, just $400 short of its request. It also was the largest single grant approved in Kansan. Metzger advised the new grant would be used in the same type projects the city used previous block grants for.

Several persons were appointed to city advisory groups. Officially appointed to the Industrial Advisory Board were Dana Brewer and Bob Steimel (terms to expire Jan. 9, 1984); William Lagemann and Danny Farha (to Jan. 14, 1985); and Ray Houser (to Jan. 13, 1986). The five have been serving on the IDA since last February but had not been officially appointed.

Karen Dunlap and Gary Hobbie were reappointed to the Concordia Planning Commission with their terms running to Nov. 1, 1985. Hobbie was also repointed to represent the Planning Commission on the Board of Zoning Appeals for a three-year term.

The special assessments for the new alley paving in Block 47—State to Cedar, between 15th and 16th streets—were given final approval following a public hearing. Boyd Dochew, representing the Wesleyan Church, was the only person present for the hearing and he had only compliments to give the city on doing a good job. He advised the new asphalt surface alleviates a lot of problems when it rains. Total cost of the improvement is $7,601.78 with all of this amount being charged to the benefit district.

The commission adjourned to Dec. 9 at 4 p.m.

# Quick decision promised on U.S.81-24 junction

12-8-82

A decision on what additional safety measures will be taken at the U.S. 81-24 junction will be made soon, Jack Kemp, Secretary of Transportation, told a group of interested citizens attending a hearing on the dangerous intersection at the college Little Theater last night.

Kemp thanked those attending the meeting for their concern and for the suggestions that they made to improve the safety conditions at the intersection. "I'm hopeful that we can reach a decision by Friday of this week and I'll issue a press release in the next week to 10 days on our decision," he said. "You've given us some excellent suggestions and we'll give them all thoughtful consideration," he said.

The meeting opened with Bob Anderson, district highway engineer, and Fred Terry, of the Department of Transportation, discussing the reason the four-way stop was changed to a two-way stop and alternative measures which might be taken to improve the safety of the intersection.

Anderson said that the four-way stop was installed in 1947 and that the traffic volume on the two highways was nearly equal at that time. However, after I-70 was opened and U.S. 36 designated as a state freeway, traffic volume on U.S. 24 began to decrease, he said. Since 1940 traffic volume on U.S. 81 has continued to increase, while traffic on U.S. 24 has remained constant, he explained.

Anderson said that the change from a four-way stop to a two-way stop was made last year after traffic studies of the intersection indicated that traffic on U.S. 81 was about three times as great as on U.S. 24. He explained that the uniform traffic manual suggests that four-way stops will only be used when traffic volumes on two highways are nearly equal. He also said that U.S. 81 is a major throughway and that the tendency of traffic is to only slow or come to a rolling stop at the intersection.

Anderson said that the 1980 traffic studies showed that one third of the traffic on U.S. 81 was truck traffic and that one third equals the total amount of traffic on U.S. 24.

Terry told the group that the projections indicated that the traffic volume on U.S. 81 will continue to increase during the next 20 to 40 years. "If the traffic growth on U.S. 81 could reach a ratio of 4 or 5 to 1 in the next 10 years, he said.

Terry said that when drivers sense they are on a throughway speeds as well as violations increase.

Terry said that in making a study of the traffic safety at the intersection, the highway department found that in the 9.8 year period before removal of the four-way stop that there were only six accidents, including one fatality at the intersection. This equates to a 4.6 accident rate for each 10 million vehicles entering the intersection, he said.

Since Oct. 25, 1982 when the two-way stop was installed, there have been five accidents, including two fatalities, which equates to a rate of 36.5 accidents per 10 million vehicles entering the intersection, he said. The state average is about 4.8 accidents per 10 million vehicles entering similar intersection, he added.

Terry said that currently there are 1,368,020 vehicles entering the intersection each year.

Terry said that one of the alternatives being considered by the department are the installation of red flashing lights on U.S. 24 and yellow flashing caution signals on U.S. 81. Under this arrangement U.S. 81 remains a free flowing highway, he said.

A second consideration is the installation of more warning signs; however, "we feel that the intersection has adequate warning signs and that additional signs might clutter the intersection to the point that motorists might ignore important signs," he said.

A third consideration is to return the intersection to a four-way stop. The problem, he said, would be to re-educate the traffic on U.S. 81. "Sometimes you really have to shake the motorist to get his attention," he said. The disadvantages to this plan are that all traffic would have to stop, that maintenance would increase at the intersection, and that more than likely there would be an increase of rear-end type accidents.

Another consideration is the installation of traffic signals at all four corners, he said. With this method the motorist would not have to find safe gaps in the traffic flow to cross the intersection, he explained. However, the problem would be to alert the motorist to the unexpected traffic signals miles from anywhere, he said.

Terry said that even though the number of accidents increases at intersections with traffic signals, the accidents are less severe.

Another consideration is to redesign the intersection in such a way that the north and south lanes of U.S. 81 would separate and curve slightly, resulting in a reduction of vehicle speed through the intersection.

The intersection would be designed for a maximum speed of 40 m.p.h., he said. However, the disadvantages are that the cost would be approximately $600,000 and that the traffic on U.S. 24 would have to make two stops to cross the intersection.

Terry said that the other consideration, but virtually ruled out because of the cost, is a diamond shaped interchange. He said in addition to the $1 million price tag several of the businesses at the intersection would have to be relocated because of the amount of land necessary to construct the interchange.

State Representative Bill Fuller said that he has been concerned about the safety at the intersection and as early as last December expressed this concern to the Department of Transportation.

He said that it was disappointing to him that it took several tragedies to finally invoke the concern which was being shown at the meeting. However, he said with the financial condition of the state there was little hope for either the interchange or the separated lane proposals and that he favored remedial action now to make the intersection safer.

Fuller took the opportunity to ask his constituents to let him know between now and January the type of highway program they were willing to financially support. He said he believed the Kansas highway system was in a crisis and that a solution which is acceptable to the public, to the legislature and to the governor must be found.

Fuller said that there is no free lunch when it comes to financing highway systems. In the past highway financing has come from user fees and a three to four cent per gallon tax increase has been tossed around for some time, he said. "If we decide to fund part of the highway department revenues from the state's general fund, I believe it should be a permanent transfer," he said.

State Representative Clifford Campbell from rural Beloit said that he has served on the House highway committee for six years and that the state is attempting to maintain a highway system with 1967 dollars. "In the past four years the state budget has increased from $2 to $3 million dollars and most of that increase has gone for schools, universities and welfare," he said. "In the last campaign the Kansas teachers' association said I was anti-education. Well, if I'm anti-education, I hope I'm pro highway," he said.

County commissioner Lowell Thoman said that he favored the red flashing lights on U.S. 24 and the yellow flashing lights on U.S. 81. Thoman said that he was concerned about the safety of the intersection and hoped something could be done soon.

Bob Burns, a Concordia fireman and ambulance driver, said he wanted to see something done and done soon. "I'm the one who has to cut the people out of the cars and take them to the hospital and I want to see the slaughter ended," he said.

Merle Miller, publisher of the Belleville Telescope and president of the Pan American Highway Association, said that as he sees it the problem is that U.S. 81 has not been converted to a four-lane highway. "If it was four-lane, there wouldn't be a safety problem at the intersection," he said.

Miller said that he has been working for a better U.S. 81 for a long time and that the people of this area deserve a freeway particularly with the decline of railroads. "The answer is to build better highways, he said. "It could be the cheapest money we'll spend."

Miller said that the public needs to find a way to get more money to the Department of Transportation. He also said that he sees some danger in returning the intersection to a four-way stop.

There seemed to be no concensus on a solution to make the intersection safer. Suggestions made by those attending the meeting included:

1. Return to a four-way stop.
2. Installation of overhead signs similar to those found on freeways and the interstate system.
3. The placing of stop signs in the center of the U.S. 24 lanes.
4. Flashing overhead stop signals.
5. Larger signs which indicate that traffic on U.S. 81 does not stop.
6. The installations of signs which say, "Look again, Traffic on U.S. 81 Does not Stop."
7. The installation of more rumble strips on U.S. 24 and on U.S. 81 if the four-way stop is replaced.

equal at that time. However, after I-70 was opened and U.S. 36 designated as a state freeway, traffic volume on U.S. 24 began to decrease, he said. Since 1940 traffic volume on U.S. 81 has continued to increase, while traffic on U.S. 24 has remained constant, he explained.

Anderson said that the change from a four-way stop to a two-way stop was made last year after traffic studies of the intersection indicated that traffic on U.S. 81 was about three times as great

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12-13-82

***Off the track***

**Three Santa Fe Railroad grain cars derailed Friday morning near 3rd and Olive Streets in Concordia. The accident apparently happened because of a broken rail. (Blade photo by Chris Black)**

HIGHWAY PUBLIC MEETING — Secretary of Transportation John B. Kemp, second from right, addresses a group of about 50 persons attending a public meeting to discuss safety improvements at the U.S. 81-24 junction. Shown with Kemp is Bob Anderson, state highway department district engineer. The meeting was held Tuesday evening at Cloud County Community College.

12-9-82

—Photo by William DeArmond

# Assure Speedy Action On U.S. 81-24 Junction

Kansas Secretary of Transportation, John B. Kemp, told a group of about 50 persons attending a public meeting Monday evening that a quick decision on a possible solution to the US 81-24 junction problem would be made in a week or ten days.

KDOT officials presented a slide presentation on alternative plans that could be implemented at the junction. That was followed by suggestions by those attending the meeting. A number of persons attended expressed their concern.

Representative Bill Fuller of Miltonvale and Cliff Campbell of Beloit spoke briefly and told of concerns of the legislature. Both men are members of the House Transportation committee and represent districts served by the two highways.

An increase in accidents occured when the junction was changed from a four-way to a two-stop during a redesign of the junction. Presently only traffic on US 24 has to stop.

# Flashing lights, better signs at junction

12-13-82

**The U.S. 81-24 junction will remain a two-way stop; however, a number of additional traffic safety devices will be installed, John Kemp, secretary of transportation, informed Rep. Bill Fuller Friday.**

**According to Fuller, Kemp said that suggestions made at a public meeting in Concordia last Tuesday and suggestions made by his staff had been reviewed and it was decided to maintain the free flow of U.S. 81 and to install as soon as possible additional safety devices at the intersection. The additional safety devices are:**

**Install red flashing lights on the stop signs and amber flashing lights on the 45 miles per hour signs;**

Insure with Bays-Erickson-Swiercinsky.

Provide overhead lighting for the intersection, one at the stop sign on 24 highway on the northeast corner of the intersection and the other at the stop sign on the southwest corner of the intersection;

Place over-sized stop signs in the center of the road on U.S. 24, to the driver's left;

Double the size of the small size sign they now have which states that U.S. 81 does not stop;

Improve the motorists view by moving the signs away from the roadway and clearing brush and trees so there will be no obstructions.;

Change the rumble strips from the present ones, which will be shaved off, to strips that will be cut into the pavement, leaving a smooth area at the right for motorcycles and bikes;

Place additional signs to warn people of the rumble strips ahead.

Fuller said Kemp promised all this will be done as soon as materials can be acquired and taken to the sight. Kemp further stated he regretted they had not done something a year ago when he, Fuller, contacted them, and assured him that if there are other concerns they will come promptly upon being contacted.

Kemp said they are going to monitor the sight, even after the improvements, and that the highway patrol will be enforcing the 35 mile an hour speed zone. He said they could not return to a four-way stop because of the difference in the traffic counts and because this would result in backending accidents.

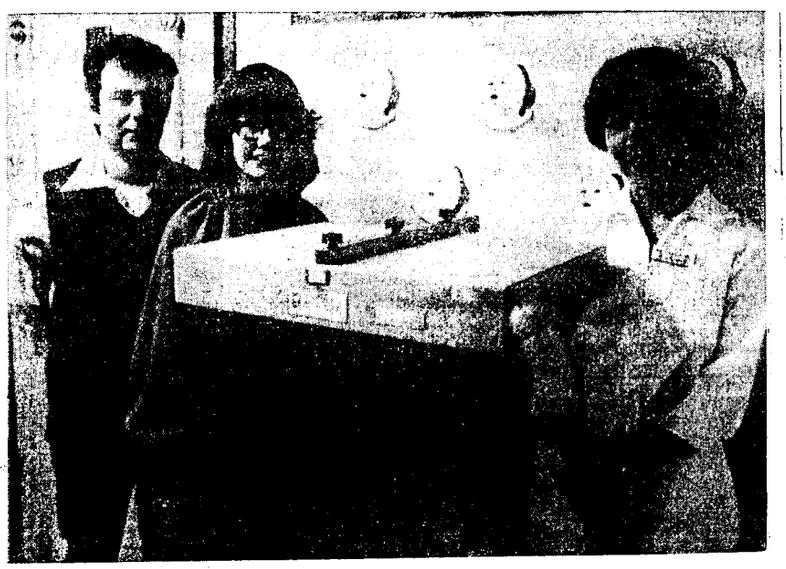
Fuller added he was pleased to know they were using the suggestions he had made by letter to Kemp in December, 1981, and that he was impressed with the prompt response and cooperation. He said it also was gratifiying to note the interest and cooperation shown in the meeting in Concordia, at which these suggestions were discussed, along with others that were incorporated in Kemp's plans. The positive aspect of the meeting here was especially helpful, Fuller said.

He said he could think of nothing at this time that could be done to help the situation short of an overpass, which would be too expensive to consider.

## *Christmas gift in lieu of taxes*

Mike Alexander (right), manager of the Lemans Family Fun Center which will open Dec. 22 in Concordia Plaza, presents a check for $850.00 to Robert Wilson, exhalted ruler of the Concordia Elks Lodge. The $850.00 was given to the Elks for their Christmas project to help needy families in lieu of taxes which were due the city for 1982 vodeo game license fees. Since the city does not pro-rate these types of licenses, it was agreed by the city and by Lemans Family Fun Centers to give the money to the Elks. Jerry Nelson (left) of Lemans Family Fun Centers was present for the presentation. (Blade photo by Chris Black) 12-16-82





DONATE HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT—Mr. and Mrs. Matt Lauer, left, have donated a Bililite to the nursery at St. Joseph Hospital in memory of their daughter, Heather Lauer. The Bililite is used in the treatment of newborn babies who are jaundiced. Also pictured is Mary Heeler, RN, the head nurse of the hospital obstetrics department.

—Photo by Wm. DeArmond

# Approve Idea of IRB's For Recapping Plant

The Concordia City Commission, at its meeting Wednesday afternoon, gave tentative approval to issuance of $320,000 in industrial revenue bonds for the construction and equipment for a tire recapping and retreading plant here. The commission actually took the first step in issuing the bonds by approving a resolution of intent to issue up to $320,000 in IRB's.

**Christensen Oil Co., Inc., of Concordia will build the plant at their current location, 1712 Lincon.**

Ray Houser, chairman of the Cloud County-Concordia Industrial Advisory Commission, introduced the subject and heartly recommended approval of the IRB's for Christensen Oil, owned and operated by Ron Champlin and Keith Christensen. He pointed out four major reasons why the bonds should be approved: the firm is an established and successful business operation; to create new jobs; broaden the tax base; and retain money here that is now going to other cities.

In making his recommendation Houser emphasized that the type of project proposed by Christensen Oil was an ideal use of industrial revenue bond financing. He further stated that the industrial commission was particularly pleased that the first bond issue they were involved with was a local firm with the stature and reputation in the business community that Champlin and Christensen have. They have operated Christensen Oil since 1968.

Houser also advised the Concordia Industrial Development Association board, at a meeting Wednesday noon, unanimously recommended the city commission approve the $320,000.

The industrial commission and Concordia Industrial Development Director Glen Walker have been working with Champlin and Christensen for several weeks, firming up the financing details

**The Proposal**

Ron Champlin actually presented the proposal for Christensen Oil. Construction of the new facility will begin next month with a scheduled completion date in April, 1983. Their existing warehouse will be converted into a tire recapping plant—cold process—and a new warehouse and support center will be rebuilt by expanding their current sales and service building. He advised that over half of the bond sale proceeds would be invested in the new machinery and equipment.

The new plant will employ five people immediately upon opening, and nine or more people when it becomes fully operational. Champlin emphasized that they planned to hire all local people—both for the construction portion and for operating the retreading plant. The plant would become operational sooner if they brought in trained operators for the key pieces of equipment, however, they decided to allow for additional training time to hire and train current residents rather than import experienced recapping plant workers.

Champlin stated that they plan to concentrate their production on recapping truck tires, but some passenger car tires will be processed also. Initially, they plan to distribute the recaps throughout the northcentral Kansas area. He advised the proposed plan would not be in competition with any present existing business in this area. "It will replace purchases being made by area businesses and citizens from outside the local area, such as Wichita, Salina, and Topeka," Champlin said.

Champlin concluded, "Unlike some past industrial revenue bond proposals, Christensen Oil Co. will not ask or expect a property tax exempt status on its present or proposed holdings. In fact, the proposed plant will ex-

**Other Business**

In other action, the city commission issued a nuisance abatement notice to Wynn Phipps, owner of property at 429 W. 12th. Mike Peterson, of the city staff, advised the commission that some clean-up of weeds had taken place on the lot but old materials such as water tanks and lumber still exist. Phipps has ten days to correct the nuisance.

A quarterly investment report indivated the city received $21,-800.96 during July, August and September. So far this year interest income is $49,305, a 24% increase over the same six-month fiscal period in 1981.

A beer license was issued to Karen Joslyn, doing business as "The Smoker." Mr. and Mrs. Ron Joslyn purchased the business a few days ago from Mrs. Clyde Lewis.

The commission repealed an ordinance they passed last July vacating Russ Street in Budreau's Addition in East Concordia. The change was requested by the Occupational Center of Central Kansas, who have plans to build a shop in the addition.

City Attorney Dave Retter was acting city manager in the absence of Carl Metzger who was out-of-town attending a conference.

Phil Detrixhe was also a visitor at the meeting.

**Kansas**

# Financing rates down for city improvements

The Concordia city commission yesterday authorized the temporary financing of several improvement projects and accepted a petition on another improvement project in the downtown business district.

Bids were accepted on temporary financing of the downtown business district improvement projects, on an improvement project on Republican and an alley paving project behind the Wesleyan Church. First Bank & Trust was the only bidder on the temporary financing with an average yearly rate of 8.73 percent. City manager Carl Metzger said that the Cloud County Bank informed him that it was not interested in bidding on this particular issue. He added that the interest rate is down considerably reflecting the current drop in interest rates. "We have been paying around 9.5 percent and as high as 10.5 percent in the past year for temporary financing," he said.

The temporary financing authorized for the curbing project on Republican Street was in the amount of $3,970.00. The financing for the alley project was in the amount of $9,360.00.

The financing for the downtown business district project from Lincoln to Broadway was in the amount of $66,715.71 and the financing for the project from Broadway to State Street was in the amount of $218,984.78.

The improvement project authorized yesterday by the commissioners is for new sidewalk, curb and guttering on the east side of the First Bank & Trust downtown facility at the corner of Sixth and Washington. The estimated cost of the project is $13,292.97 with the city paying 49.6 percent or $6,598.54 and the bank paying 50.4 percent or $6,694.43. Metzger said that the city at large share of the project includes the replacement of that portion of the sidewalk which covers one of the city's storm sewers and for the replacement of 30 inches of curb and gutter.

The commissioners approved a resolution expressing the city's intention to cooperate with Saline County in developing and implementing of a single family housing finance program. Metzger explained that United Securities, Inc. is in the process of packaging a single family mortgage revenue bond program for Clay, Cloud, Dickinson, Geary, Marian, Marshall, Mitchell, Morris, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Riley, Republic, Saline, Shawnee, Wabaunsee and Washington counties. He said that the program is identical to one presented to the city in February of 1980 and will provide low-cost mortgage interest money for loans to first time home buyers in Kansas communities. No determination has been made as to the amount of the total issue nor to the portion of that issue that would be distributed within Cloud County and Concordia, he added.

The commissioners authorized the mayor to execute the annual operation of maintenance assurance statement to the Kansas State Park and Resources Authority. This statement reaffirms the city's commitment to maintain and care for the parks and facilities and assures that the public will have access to these facilities during reasonable hours and times of the year. The statement covers operation and maintenance of park improvements made at City Park and Hood Park.

## *Merry Christmas for the less fortunate*

12-15-82

Concordia police chief Dennis Rohr, who also is chairman of the Community Resource Council, is pictured accepting money and food items from members of the Business and Professional Women's Club for the community food bank. This money and the food items will be given to less fortunate families to make their Christmas a little brighter. Making the presentation (left to right) were: Ethel Henthorne, vice president, Jolene Springer, president, and Nancy Greenwood. Persons wishing to make contributions to the food bank can leave them at the Law Enforcement Center. (Blade photo by Chris Black)

## *New business opens Sunday*

Hardee's will open Sunday at Concordia Plaza, according to local manager Mike Losey. The Concordia Hardee's is the 37th fast food restaurant opened by the Hutchinson division. There are 1,450 Hardee's nationwide. Hardee's will employ 41 people in Concordia. (Blade photo by Chris Black)

12-17-82

# Falling mortgage rates hold inflation rate down

12-21-82

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer prices rose a minuscule 0.1 percent in November, the smallest gain since March, the government said today. For the year, inflation is running at a modest annual rate of 4.5 percent.

The new report, which attributed much of last month's moderation to tumbling mortgage interest rates, bolstered economists' predictions that, for all of 1982, inflation could be at its lowest in a decade.

At the White House, presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said, "It's clear we have brought about a dramatic decline in the underlying rate of inflation in the two years since the president has been in office."

In a separate, somber assessment made public today, Commerce Department economists said their preliminary indications are that the economy, after six months of growth, is declining in the last three months of the year.

Sources who requested anonymity said the department's "flash" estimate of gross national product showed economic activity is falling at an annual rate of 2.2 percent in the October-December quarter.

As for consumer prices, today's Labor Department report said fuel oil and natural gas prices jumped sharply last month while food costs rose slightly, apparel prices fell and medical care costs posted fresh, substantial gains.

The report said the biggest contributor to the tiny overall increase in its Consumer Price Index was the 0.2 percent decline in housing costs.

Mortgage interest rates fell 2.5 percent, the most since August 1980, and the prices of homes themselves rose a small 0.2 percent.

Home prices had surged 1.1 percent in October and mortgage rates tumbled 2.3 percent. Overall, housing costs in October rose 0.4 percent.

Economists attribute the improved inflation picture to the poor economy, oil surplus and plentiful harvests.

If the 4.5 percent 11-month rate holds through December, the full-year gain would be the lowest since the 3.4 percent of 1971 and 1972.

Overall, last month's 0.1 percent seasonally adjusted increase was the economy's best monthly showing since the 0.3 percent decline in March. Consumer prices rose 0.5 percent in October and 0.2 percent in September.

If prices rose for 12 months at November's rate, the yearly gain would be 0.8 percent. The annual rate reported by the department is based on a more precise calculation of monthly changes than the figure the department makes public.

The new report said that, for the 12 months ending in November, prices rose 4.6 percent.

With the winter heating season beginning in much of the country, fuel oil prices rose a sharp 2.0 percent last month as natural gas prices rose 1.8 percent.

In the first 11 months of the year, natural gas prices soared nearly 25 percent, the report said. Anaylsts generally attribute that increase to congressional decontrol of the prices of new gas supplies.

Since decontrol began in 1978, natural gas customers have seen their bills more than double, congressional investigators said in a report earlier this month.

That report, from the General Accounting Office, said producers' share of industry revenues has risen more than 100 percent while the pipelines' share has fallen.

Gasoline prices rose a small 0.3 percent last month. Since March 1981, those costs have declined overall by 6.8 percent.

The improved gasoline price picture has mostly been attributed to the lingering worldwide oil surplus.

That surplus could continue for months to come as OPEC ministers failed on Monday to decide on individual production quotas for member nations at their meeting in Vienna, Austria.

The ministers froze their base oil price at $34 a barrel, but their inability to decide individual quotas raised the possibility of a price collapse in the spring, when demand normally declines.

The Labor Department provided these other details on consumer price activity last month:

—Rents rose 0.6 percent, slightly less than the 0.9 percent increase of October.

—Food prices rose 0.1 percent, in line with the 0.2 percent advance of the previous month. Grocery store prices fell slightly as pork prices tumbled 1.3 percent after substantial increases throughout most of the year. Poultry and egg prices were also down, but beef prices rose moderately. The cost of restaurant meals rose 0.4 percent and prices for alcoholic beverages were up 0.3 percent.

—Overall transportation costs rose 0.3 percent, under the 0.6 percent rise of October. New car prices fell 0.5 percent. Used car prices were up 2.0 percent.

—Medical care costs surged 1.0 percent after a 0.8 percent increase in October. For the 12 months ending in November, such costs soared 11.0 percent, substantially ahead of any other major component of the index. Charges for hospital rooms rose 1.5 percent in November, which meant that for the year ending last month, such charges skyrocketed 13.8 percent.

—Clothing costs fell 0.2 percent after rising by the same amount in September and October.

—Entertainment costs held steady after surging 1.0 percent in October.

MUGWUMP

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# City hikes water rates; adopts new health insurance plan

12-16-82

The Concordia city commissioners yesterday approved a water rate increase of 21 percent which will amount to an increase of $1.35 per month for the average water user.

The 21 percent increase is the third in a four step rate increase policy adopted by the commissioners in December of 1980. As a result of the policy water rates went up 46 percent in 1981, 21 percent in 1982, 21 percent in 1983 and are expected to go up 21 percent in 1984.

City manager Carl Metzger said that the four stage rate increase was the result of a water rate study done by Wilson and Company in 1980. The study projected the future operation requirements and recommended a water rate structure designed to ensure continued self-sustaining operation of the city water utility, Metzger said.

Metzger said that water utility expenditures consisting of operating costs and capital costs are expected to increase 17 percent in 1983. He said that operating costs are projected to increase 14 percent in 1983 with the largest increase falling in energy related accounts which includes utility costs for operating the supply wells. Other less costly increases will come from maintenance, supplies, supervision and salaries, he said.

Metzger said that rates outside the city limits will continue to be 50 percent greater than rates charged Concordia users. He said rates for Rural Water District No. 1 will be increased to amounts established in the 1983 rate schedule.

The commissioners approved a plan which could save the city between four and 17 percent on health care coverage by self insuring employees up to a point and then providing regular health care coverage for catastrophic illness.

Under the new plan the city will pay the first $2,000 of all approved medical bills for its 50 employees with an aggregate limit for all self-funded claims in 1983 of $46,104.00. Claims paid by the city in excess of the aggregate limit in the policy year will be refunded within 60 days after the anniversary date.

The city has purchased "stop-loss" protection for excess claims or catastrophic risks. The stop loss or re-insurance has been purchased to limit the amount of exposure in the self-fund portion of the coverage and is available at a relatively low rate because the city is placed in a pool with other groups of government employees nation wide, spreading the risk and helping keep the rates down, Metzger said.

Metzger said the stop-loss coverage begins when an individual's claims exceed the self-funded amount or the aggregate amount of the entire group is reached.

All-self insured claims and the claims covered under the stop-loss policy are handled by Employee Benefit Administrators of Overland Park.

Metzger said that the city turned to the self-funded plan after receiving notice that Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States was raising premiums by 52 percent for 1983. Metzger said that premiums for a family contract under this plan would increase from $135.00 to $205.00 per month.

Metzger said that the city had budgeted $84,000.00 for health insurance in 1983 and that the new rates would have pushed the city's cost to approximately $104,000.00. He said under the new self-funded plan it is expected that health insurance costs in 1983 for the city will run between $69,000.00 and $70,000.00.

After an informative public meeting with property owners living west of Third Avenue, the commissioners approved a resolution establishing a basic policy on annexation.

Under the provision of the policy the city will consider annexation on the basis of priorities established in the policy. The first priority will be to annex all residential development presently receiving city water or sewer and or fronting on paved city streets. The second priority will be to annex all residential property development adjoining the city limits not served by city water or sewer. The third priority will be to annex any property into the city when petitioned by the owner of record and only if the area proposed for annexation is included in the comprehensive plan of 1971.

The policy also states that annexation will not happen when massive injections of city funds are required to correct conditions which never should have existed; to correct problems in providing utility services; to correct substandard capital improvements or to correct drainage problems.

Metzger said the new policy would provide future governing bodies with a plan for the orderly and logical annexation of land into the city. He said regular review of developed and developing areas on the city's fringes for annexation into the city will also work to prevent crises and a scattergun approval to solve immediate problems just beyond the city limits.

After passing the policy statement the commissioners approved resolutions stating that the city is considering annexation and was giving notice of a public hearing on the intended annexation to residential property owners on the west side of Third Avenue. These property owners are Elric Breault, Frank Wheeler, William Sorgatz, Mrs. Lyle Conley, Carol Elliott, Kerry Smith, Charles Wright, and Mrs. Murrell Thomas.

Most of the property owners appeared at the public meeting and voiced their objection to the annexation. Primarily, they said that they had not requested the annexation and that they had lived without being in the city for years. Several said that they purchased their properties because they were located outside the city limits.

Carol Elliott, owner of Elliott Excavating, said that the property tax increase was not significant but the additional city tax levy on the equipment he owns and keeps on his non-residential property would be significant.

Mayor Greg Hattan told the group that unfortunately they were the first group to be considered for annexation into the city under the new policy. However, he said that it is the belief of the commissioners that people receiving some or all of the city services should help pay city property taxes. He said that the commissioners did not believe that it was fair to the other property owners in the city when some people were receiving the services and not paying any of the taxes.

Property taxes on those homes which would be annexed would increase from a low of $65.00 to a high of $266.94 based on the 1882 tax levy, according to statistics compiled by the city administration.

The next step in the annexation process will be the publication of a notice of annexation in the official city newspaper and that establishing of Feb. 16 as the date of a public hearing on the proposal. After the public hearing the city clerk will file a copy of an ordinance annexing the properties with the county. After the publication of the ordinance in the official city newspaper, the property owners have 60 days to file an objection with the District Court.

The commissioners approved resolutions establishing pay grades for classified and non-classified employees. The resolutions reflected the 5.1 percent increase including wages, fringe benefits and health insurance costs as approved in the 1983 budget approved in August.

Metzger said that the additional costs to fund classified employees next year is $48,203.00. The total cost for all personal services will be $989,901.00, which amounts to 42 percent of the entire city budget in 1983, he said.

Pay grades established for the director of streets and the director of public grounds range from $17,000 to $21,000, pay grades established for the city clerk and director of finance and the fire chief range from $17,500.00 to $22,020.00; and pay grades for the chief of police, the director of utilities, and the director of economic development range from $18,020.00 to $23,020.00.

Metzger said that the pay grades established for non-classified employees reflect a base pay increase of 5.1 percent and that two additional steps to the longevity pay plans have been included.

In two house cleaning measures the commissioners approved ordinances which grant the city manager the authority to make regulations and install and maintain traffic control device and which relaxed the city specifications on the diameter ratio of gravity sewer pipe. Metzger said that the action of the city ordinances covering parking meters was n changed when the city took out t meters and went to two hour fr parking. He explained that the chan in the sewer pipe regulations wou allow plumbers and contractors to u more than one kind of pipe.

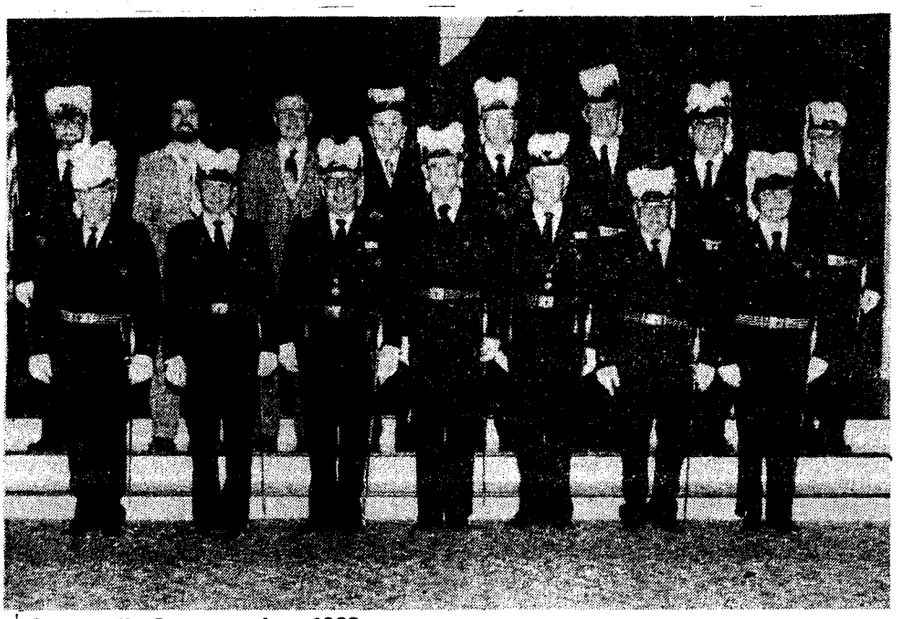
The commissioners approved ca cellation of 1982 license tax fees coin-operated video games for t Lemans Family Fun Center and t donation of the $850.00 in taxes to t Concordia Elks Lodge to be used in t club's Christmas project to help nee families.

Metzger explained that Lema Family Fun Center plans to open Dec. 22 in the Concordia Shoppi Plaza and that the city does not pro-ra video game license fees. Consequentl he said, Lemans ordinarily would ha to pay the city the full $850.00. Howeve he said after talking to Jerry Nelson Lemans Family Fun Centers it w decided to see if the commissione would approve the donation of an equ amount of money to the Elks.

Nelson told the commissioners th the Lemans Family Fun Center Concordia would be the 55rd fu operation opened in the United State He said that the company is expandi rapidly nationwide.

He said that Lemans does everythi possible not to be a problem for the cit "Concordia will never have a proble because we're in business in Conco dia," Nelson said. "We take unusu measures to see that we don't have a problems."

Nelson said that there is no smokir no drinking, no loitering and no truan allowed in Lemans Family F Centers. He also introduced Mi Alexander as the manager of t Concordia Lemans Family Cent



***Concordia Commandery 1983 Lodge Officers***

**Pictured in the front row from left to right are: Howard G. Vincent, Warder, Carl R. Trude, Generalissimo, John D. Trude, Grand Sword Bearer and installing officer, Raymond E. King, Commander, Donald B. Hanson, Deputy Grand Commander and installing officer, Max Croisant, Captain General, John C. Laman, Recorder. Pictured in back row from left to right are: Robert B. Pfuetze, Standard Bearer, Ross A. Olson, Treasurer, Thomas E. McClellan, Prelate, Eugene Leon, Sentinel, Don Robinette, Past Grand Commander and installing officer, H. Corvan Carpenter, Junior Warden, Max L. Briggs, Senior Warden and A. Chester Brumfield, Sword Bearer.**

12-21-82

# Local Masonic bodies elect officers

The three Concordia Bodies of the York Rite of Freemasonry met December 13, at the Masonic Temple for the annual meetings, elections and installations for 1983 officers.

The following officers were elected and installed for Concordia Chapter No. 45, Royal Arch Masons: Carl R. Trude, Excellent High Priest, Eugene Leon, King, Max L. Briggs, Scribe, Ross A. Olson, Treasurer, John C. Laman, Secretary, A. Chester Brumfield, Captain of Hosts, Robert B. Pfeutze, Principal Sojourner, Howard G. Vincent, Royal Arch Captain, H. Corvan Carpenter, Master of the Third Vail. The Excellent High Priest will appoint Masters for the Second and First Vail and a Sentinel prior to the next Stated Convocation. Installing officers for Chapter were E. Phil Smith, John D. Trude and Vernon D. Martin.

Hiram Council No. 10, Royal and Select Masters, elected the following 1983 Council Officers: Paul Weiser, Illustrious Master, Raymond Haden, Deputy Master, Raymond Richardson, Prinicpal Conductor of the Work, Ross A. Olson, Treasurer, John C. Laman, Recorder, Jerome K. Johnson, Captain of the Guard, Thomas E. McClellan, Conductor of the Council, Marion Patton, Steward, and Raymond E. King, Sentinel. Council officers were installed by Don Robinette, District Deputy Grand Master, and John D. Trude, Marshall.

Concordia Commandery No. 42, Knights Templar of Kansas, elected 1983 officers as follows: Raymond E. King, Commander, Carl R. Trude, Generalissimo, Max Croisant, Captain General, Max L. Briggs, Senior Warden, H. Corvan Carpenter, Junior Warden, Thomas E. McClellan, Prelate, Ross A. Olson, Treasurer, John C. Laman, Recorder, Robert B. Pfuetze, Standard Bearer, A. Chester Brumfield, Sword Bearer, Howard G. Vincent, Warder and Eugene Leon, Sentinel. Commandery officers were officially installed by Donald B. Hanson, Deputy Grand Commander and John D. Trude, Grand Sword Bearer, both of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas, and Don Robinette, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas.

## Filing deadline Jan. 25

Noon Jan. 25 is the filing deadline for a position on the Concordia city commission which will be contested in an April 5 general election, according to city clerk Verna Scott.

Mrs. Scott said individuals can have their names placed on the ballot by either filing a petition signed by the names of at least 10 qualified electors or by paying a $10.00 filing fee. She said that if more than two candidates file for the position a primary election will be necessary on March 1.

The position to be contested is currently held by Lee Doyen. 12-30-82

ROTARY CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS Kansan

Carl Metzger was re-elected president of the Concordia Rotary Club Monday during a business meeting. Other officers elected were: Paul Koehn, president-elect; Jim Snyder, sergeant-at-arms; Ken Esau, secretary; Dennis Rohr, treasurer; and Eric Steffes and Greg Hattan, directors.

Other members of the board of directors are Virgil Brummer, Mike Johnston, and Ken Palmquist.

12-30-82

# Rotary elects new officers

The Rotary Club elected officers for the new year at their regular meeting held Monday at The Tiffany.

Elected to office were: Carl Metzger, re-elected president for another term; Paul Koehn, elected president-elect; directors, Eric Steffes and Greg Hattan; sergeant-at-arms, Jim Snyder; secretary, Ken Esau; treasurer, Dennis Rohr.

Virgil Brummer, Mike Johnston and Ken Palmquist were elected to the board of directors.

12-30-82

# AARP disapproves city's actions

AARP members had their regular meeting at The Tiffany Friday. Boyd Dochow was program chairman; the Michael Bates family, Sharon, Rebecca, John, Michelle and Frances, presented a variety of Christmas vocal music.

Vernon Martin, chairman of the legislative committee, reported on activities of lawmaking bodies, including the local city administration's decision to increase water rates and salaries. A near unanimous vote was made to express the group's displeasure of these actions.

Ella Swengel, secretary, reported on the board of directors' meeting in which it was suggested that the chapter donate $200 to the food bank and $100 for payment of a floor polisher for the Center: the chapter approved the recommendations. Helen Martin, treasurer, gave the financial report.

Ethel Henthorne, assistant state director, announced her retirement, effective Dec. 31. She has served four years and suggested that the chapter try to find a successor. Sister Frances Joan asked that members call on the elderly and shut-ins, especially during the Christmas season.

A noon luncheon at The Tiffany will be held Jan. 21. 12-21-82

WIN TRIP TO DISNEYLAND—Mr. and Mrs. Roger Demanette and family of Concordia received tickets and congratulations Monday after Mrs. Demanette's name was drawn Dec. 24 as winner of the grand prize trips for four to Disneyland. Pictured from left are: Keith Palmquist, representing the 29 participating merchants; Sarah, age 5; Jane, winner of the drawing; Christina Navis, representing Concordia Travel Service; and Roger and Abby Demanette. Mrs. Demanette registered at Wilson Furniture during the first week of November. Kansan 12-30-82 Photo by Wm. DeArmond

# City seeks applicants for housing rehabilitation

12-29-83
Blade Empire

People living in older homes with not enough money to repair them can get help from the city, according to city administrative assistant Mike Peterson.

Peterson said that the city has received a $250,000 grant for housing rehabilitation and another $20,000 for interim assistance for emergency repair of older homes.

The administrative assistant said the grant money should be adequate to rehabilitate 40 homes and provide emergency assistance for another 10 homes. The rehabilitation grant is part of a $812,600.00 Community Development Block grant received by Concordia from the Department of Urban Development.

Peterson explains that Concordia began its community development block grant program in 1979 and since that time 62 homes have been rehabilitated and 35 other homes have received emergency repairs. Another 150 homes have been weatherized from funds provided by the Department of Energy, Peterson noted.

Peterson acknowledged that the rehabilitation program has been the victim of some bad rumors which probably accounts for the limited number of applications being received by the city. He said that applications have been slow coming in, but "we know there are a lot of eligible people out there."

Peterson said that part of the rap against the rehabilitation program comes from one or two instances where the contractor was messy or took too long to complete the project. "We are very particular about not leaving the house messy and most of our projects are completed in 30 days," he said. "If there is a problem, all the poeple have to do is contact us and we'll straighten it out in a hurry," he said.

Another misconception hurting the program is the belief of some people that there is a payback of the grant funds, Peterson said. The only time a payback is required is when the house is sold for a profit within three years of the time the grant is received, he said. Even then paybacks are based on a declining scale depending on the number of years a family or person lives in the house before it is sold, he explained. No paybacks are required when the sale of the house is forced by hospitalization or death, Peterson stressed.

Peterson said that individual grants can be as much as $7,500.00. He said the city is in the process of increasing the income guidelines and that new guidelines should be available by Jan. 20. "We have a lot of people who qualify, but need more assistance than the present guidelines will allow us to grant," he said.

Present maximum adjusted incomes eligible for grants range from $7,824.00 for a family of one up to an income of $13,968.00 for a family of eight. Adjusted incomes are determined by subtracting housing expenses and exceeding 25 percent of yearly income, medical expense exceeding three percent of yearly income from gross income. Peterson explains that only partial grants are available for families at the top end of the income guidelines.

Peterson said that after an application is received there is an inspection of the house to determine what health and safety conditions need to be improved. The second step is a tour of house by the contractors who will be bidding on the project.

Peterson said that most of the houses which have been rehabilitated in the past have been nearly 85 years old and have had antiquated fixtures and mechanical systems.

It is common for the city to replace the furnace, electric wiring, plumbing, and install new fixtures in the baths and kitchens, Peterson said. Many times interior walls are sheetrocked and the floor replaced and covered with carpet, he said.

Usually, the exterior is completely winterized with new windows and doors and new storm windows and doors, Peterson said. Sometimes the roof is repaired and new gutters and downspouts installed, he noted.

Peterson said that there is no deadline at present for applying for rehabilitation grants. However, the city would like to have as many applications as soon as possible. Applications can be made by making an appointment with Peterson at City Hall by calling 243-2670.

Peterson said that the new grant also includes $493,000 for waterline and storm sewer construction. He said that the money will be used to construct an additional 12,000 ft. of new waterline mostly in the east part of town and a covered storm sewer north of Fifth Street from Spruce to Valley. He estimated that 1,800 people will benefit from the storm sewer construction largely because it will eliminate a constricted area at the far end of the new sewer. As many as 2,300 people in addition to the Industrial Park will benefit from the water main extensions and replacements, he estimated.

Peterson said the 6400 ft. of water mains have been installed and another 6000 ft. of storm sewer constructed since the first grant was received in 1979.

WIN TRIP TO DISNEYLAND—Mr. and Mrs. Roger Demanette and family of Concordia received tickets and congratulations Monday after Mrs. Demanette's name was drawn Dec. 24 as winner of the grand prize trips for four to Disneyland. Pictured from left are: Keith Palmquist, representing the 29 participating merchants; Sarah, age 5; Jane, winner of the drawing; Christina Navis, representing Concordia Travel Service; and Roger and Abby Demanette. Mrs. Demanette registered at Wilson Furniture during the first week of November. Kansan 12-30-82—Photo by Wm. DeArmond

# City seeks applicants for housing reh

People living in older homes with not enough money to repair them can get help from the city, according to city administrative assistant Mike Peterson.

Peterson said that the city has received a $250,000 grant for housing rehabilitation and another $20,000 for interim assistance for emergency repair of older homes.

The administrative assistant said the grant money should be adequate to rehabilitate 40 homes and provide emergency assistance for another 10 homes. The rehabilitation grant is part of a $812,600.00 Community Development Block grant received by Concordia from the Department of Urban Development.

Peterson explains that Concordia began its community development block grant program in 1979 and since that time 62 homes have been rehabilitated and 35 other homes have received emergency repairs. Another 159 homes have been weatherized from funds provided by the Department of Energy, Peterson noted.

Peterson acknowledged that the rehabilitation program has been the victim of some bad rumors which probably accounts for the limited number of applications being received by the city. He said that applications have been slow coming in, but "we know there are a lot of eligible people out there."

Peterson said that part of the rap against the rehabilitation program comes from one or two instances where the contractor was messy or took too long to complete the project. "We are very particular about not leaving the house messy and most of our projects are completed in 30 days," he said. "If there is a problem, all the poeple have to do is contact us and we'll straighten it out in a hurry," he said.

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# Officers Make Arrests For Numerous Thefts

Concordia police and sheriff's officers have been busy the past couple weeks clearing cases and filing charges. Recent arrests and investigations have led to more charges and clearance of crimes in both Concordia and the county. Many of the thefts had not previously been reported to police.

Concordia Police Chief points out, "it is important that the public report burglaries and thefts."

Following are some of the cases cleared:

Several burglaries at Vincent's Mini-Storage; one in 1981; one about Nov. 15; chain saw recovered.

Theft of CB radio from car belonging to Francis Bisnette while it was parked near Moose Club; CB recovered.

Numerous gas thefts at the Cloud County yards.

Damage to property and gas theft from Fyfe Sand Co.

Numerous gas thefts from Joe Brichat tanks ten miles south of Concordia.

Burglary at Schenk's Tree Service building at 1st and Olive; taken was an AM-FM, 8-track player and tapes.

Theft of a blanket, cologne, and $10 from a car owned by Marvin Nichols while it was parked near the Moose Club on Dec. 12.

Theft of gas from a vehicle at 315 W. 2nd belonging to LeRoy Wright; occured in September.

Burglary at Hansen Livestock Auction in 1981; pop and cigarettes taken.

Burglary at Quartzite Stone Co. in 1981; did not enter office area; nothing reported taken.

Theft of merchandise from Dreiling's Department Store.

Theft of merchandise from Alco store.

Theft of merchandise from TG & Y store.

Theft of a tape player and radio from a tractor at Concordia Tractor Co.

Theft of a tape player from a combine parked near Daugherty's pond.

Thefts of gas from vehicles and tractors at Concordia Tractor.

Theft of gas from the bridge construction crew truck north of Concordia.

Chief Rohr said those arrested (see accompanying story) estimated that during the last four to five months they had stolen well over 1,000 gallons of gasoline.

Four adults and two juveniles have been implicated.

Kansan

# Filing Deadline Jan. 25 for City Commissioner

City Clerk Verna Scott reminds Concordians that a city election will be held April 5, 1983. Electors will pick one city commissioner for the post now held by Lee W. Doyen.

**The deadline for filing for the seat is Tuesday, Jan. 25.**

To file for city commission, the signatures of at least ten qualified electors are required on a petition, or the candidate may pay a $10 filing fee. The city clerk's office accepts the filings.

If more than two candidates file for the one position, there will be a primary election March 1, 1983.

12-30-82

# More aggressive fee, fine collection by city

12-31-82

**The city is going to get tougher in the collection of delinquent ambulance fees and delinquent municipal court fines.**

**The city commissioners yesterday did grant authorization to charge off delinquent and uncollectable ambulance fees amounting to $644.00 for 1980 and $1,717.50 for 1981 and $2,176.00 in municipal court fines for the period of time from 1978 to 1981.**

**However, it was decided by the commissioners to continue to pursue collection of past due fines and fees by turning them over to a collection agency or by pursuing collection through the courts.**

**After a lengthy discussion with county commissioner Lowell Thoman it was decided to once again begin the annexation procedure for a tract of land owned by Mary Heeler.**

**Thoman told the commissioners that the county has rescinded its approval of the annexation not because it was opposed to the move, but because it believed the procedure the city was using was not correct.**

**City attorney David Retter explained that the problem is that the city has one interpretation of the procedure and the county has another. Retter said that he will work with the county attorney to resolve the difference or seek an attorney general's opinion.**

**The commissioners approved the issuance of a nuisance abatement notice to Terry Eaton, 323 E. 12th. Eaton now has 10 days to remove or abate the nuisance before the city takes action.**

**The commissioners approved three ordinances dealing with the city traffic code. The first ordinance was a house cleaning move necessary to include the maximum speed limits in school zones in the Concordia traffic code.**

**The second ordinance brought the city code in line with the state law concerning juvenile traffic offenders. The ordinance lowered the prosecution age in the Concordia municipal court from 16 to 14 years of age.**

**The third ordinance lowered the minimum jail sentence from 72 hours to 48 hours for drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The ordinance also increased the minimum fine from $100.00 to $200.00.**

**The commissioners approved a boundry ordinance for 1982. This action is required to redefine the city boundaries to include all new territory annexed within the past year.**

12-23-82

**CITY OFFICES CLOSED NEXT TWO FRIDAYS**

The Concordia city offices will be closed the next two Fridays, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. The closings are due to the Ciristmas and New Year's holidays falling on Saturday.

The city commission's end-of-the-year meeting will held on Thursday, Dec. 30, at 4 p.m.

Kansan 12-30-82

# *Concordia Girl Receives Gift Of Sight*

Laura Landry, two-year-old daughter of David and Sharon Landry received a cornea transplant at the University of Kansas Medical Center on Dec. 19 and was home in Concordia for Christmas Eve. Laura was born blind and a similar operation was done about a year ago.

The Kansas City Star reported the operations were performed by Dr. Mike Hettinger, an ophthalmologist. The transplant of a cornea, the transparent outer coat of the eyeball, must be performed within 72 hours of the death of the donor, whose identity is not displosed, and tissue compatibility tests are required. After doctors determined the first transplant was successful, Laura's name was again put on a list to await a compatible donor.

Laura's parents report she was fascinated by all the Christmas lights.

The Kansas Eye Bank is supported by the Kansas Lions, the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs.

# Outlook bright for CE Manufacturing

12-22-82

Harold Springer, personnel manager of CE Kansas Manufacturing in Concordia, says that things are looking up for the manufacturing company and that by the end of the first quarter of next year things could really be good.

CE will be closing down for a week's Christmas holiday, Springer said. However, shortly after the first of the year, the manufacturing firm will begin production on a contract with the City of Houston. Springer said that the contract with Houston will keep the 56 hourly and 12 salaried employees busy and there is a possibility that there will some call backs.

The personnel manager said that one of CE sales organizations has told the company that it had its best November on record. He said the sales organization said the business conducted in November, including sales and inquiries, exceeded any previous November. "They are giving us bright predictions, but they are only predictions, educated guesses," he said.

Springer said that the CE sales organizations are working on developing new markets and believe CE has a better than even chance of landing them. "If this happens, it is conceivable that we could have 200 people employed at the Concordia facility, he said.

Springer said part of the reason for the optimism is the production achievements of the Concordia plant. The Concordia facility has been kept open while several other CE facilities have been closed, Springer said. Consequently, it is conceivable that when new contracts are secured some of the work which otherwise might have gone to other CE facilities will come to Concordia, he explained.

CLARENCE PAULSEN

# TRIVIAL HISTORY OF CONCORDIA AND ENVIRONS

12-31-82

**A TRIO OF TREASURERS,**
**Chapter One**

Evan E. "Van" Swearngin, James Erwin "Jim" Wade and Minnie May McKay had two things in common. All of them were treasurers of Cloud County, Kansas, and county funds vanished during the term in office of each of them.

By coincidence Van Swearngin's last name was almost the same as that of the first county treasurer, Z. Swearingen. Van Swearngin was born January 17, 1840, in Indiana. He joined the Union army in 1862 and rose in the ranks to become a captain. After the Civil War he came to Cloud County with his bride, the former Alice A. Udell, whom he had married in Iowa in 1864. One hundred thirteen years ago, in 1869, before there was a town of Concordia, they homesteaded 160 acres of land south of the present state highway numbered 9 a mile and a half west of where Concordia's west city limit is today in 1982.

Van Swearngin was the kind of a man folks instinctively trusted. He enjoyed a flawless reputation and unlimited popularity. In 1876 he became a county commissioner. In 1878 he became the county clerk and held that office until he became the county treasurer in 1882, which office he held until 1886. As county clerk and treasurer Swearngin's office was in the old frame "Reid" courthouse that preceded the brick one which stood on the courthouse block until 1958. In 1888 Swearngin became a senator representing Cloud and Republic Counties in the Kansas legislature. By then he had reached a point where opposing him for a public office was considered nearly hopeless.

In 1890 he was living with his wife at what was then 428 West Eighth Street in Concordia. They had no children. Her father lived with them.

Something titillated the suspicions of the county commissioners—Baker Borton, T. B. Decker and Garrett Davidson—and in 1890 they employed an auditor, W. H. Moore, to examine the county's books. On learning about the audit Mr. Swearngin was said to have become noticeably preoccupied and absent-minded. Mr. Moore found that Swearngin had failed to account for $1,004.12 of county funds when he left the county treasurer's office four years earlier in 1886. The news of Moore's finding reached Mr. Swearngin on Sunday, October 12, 1890. After a sleepless night he arose on Monday morning, kissed his wife as she was preparing breakfast, told her he was going out to feed the horse, went to the barn and shot himself through the heart.

After his death it was discovered that he had been speculating heavily and unsuccessfully, and was broke—so broke that he couldn't, or believed he couldn't, pay the shortage he owed the county. The Concordia Empire of October 16, 1890, gave him the benefit of every doubt when it said, among other things:

> The shortage in Mr. Swearngin's account was due to a clerical error in entering an account. At the January 1886 session of the commissioners, the amount of warrants cancelled was $4,595.52, while the clerk's minutes say $5,595.52, and the clerk gave the treasurer credit for $1,000 too much; consequently when he settled with the commissioners the following October on the basis furnished by the clerk, L. N. Houston, he did not turn over enough by $1,000.00. To whom the error, for it is clearly an error, should be charged, will probably never be known.

While Swearngin was going through the wringer, James E. Wade was contemplating the county treasurer's office. He was engaged in the lumber, grain and stock businesses at Ames. By May 1902 he had decided to run. That fall he defeated County Treasurer Elwood Coate for the office. He moved to Concordia and with his wife, Nettie A., and their children, lived at what was then 206 East Eleventh Street. He took office in October 1903. He made his daughter, Lela (or Lelah) Wade, his deputy. He was re-elected in 1904, for the two-year term beginning in October 1905.

Jim Wade was a victim of bad luck. In February 1904 his son, Roy Wade, broke his ankle. On May 17, 1905, a shed next to his home burned. In September 1906 his house was damaged by fire. But he was well liked, and a born politician. The Concordia Empire of July 27, 1905, said:

> County Treasurer Wade, who has a heart as big as that of an ox and as warm as a midsummer love affair, remembered the central girls again last night with a treat of ice cream, cake and chocolates. The girls surely appreciate the treat and they are all sorry he can't run again so that they could make their "steadies" vote for him.

It should be explained that by law county treasurers could not hold the office more than two terms in succession, and Wade was about to begin his second term. Also it should be explained that in 1905 women could not vote in county elections; hence the reference to making their steady boy friends vote for Wade.

On October 12, 1905, the same newspaper said of Wade: "He made not only an honest, but a capable and courteous official, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all." In April 1906 Wade announced that when his term expired in October 1907 he and his family would move to Kansas City.

But this time something not very subtle titillated the suspicions of the county commissioners, with results to be described in the next chapter.

**County Treasurer James E. Wade (Picture courtesy of Cloud County Historical Museum)**

# S.W. Bell Explains New Policy Effective Jan. 1

12-23-82

If you are among the one in ten phone company customers who will move or change phone service in 1983, you may find that Southwestern Bell will be able to provide the service, but not the telephone sets.

This will be the net result of a Federal Communications Commission ruling which goes in effect Jan. 1. That ruling shifts the responsibility of providing new telephones away from Southwestern Bell.

According to Marcie Welch, manager for Southwestern Bell, phone customers won't begin noticing the changes until some time after the first of the year.

"We'll continue to lease new telephones for as long as our supply lasts and will continue to offer refurbished sets as well," she said. "But once our inventory is gone, customers who want telephones will get them from another equipment supplier."

Welch explained the FCC ruling was designed to foster competition in the telephone industry.

"While the FCC's ruling is separate from the recent settlement of the government's anti-trust suit against the Bell System, it's the first visible step in a series of changes leading up to Southwestern Bell's divestiture from AT&T in 1984," she said.

Chances are, if you're planning no changes in your phone service, you won't notice much difference. But if you're establishing service at a new residence or business, or changing your current service, you may see the effect of the new environment.

Welch's advice to phone customers facing these options when 1983 arrives: call Southwestern Bell's business office for assistance.

Jan. 1 will also bring some changes in telephone repair procedures. If you purchase your phones, maintenance would be handled through a warranty or similar agreement. If you continue to lease phones from Southwestern Bell, the phone company will continue to fix them.

Welch said the change will have minimal impact on Southwestern Bell employees here, even those who install and maintain telephones.

Still to be resolved is a matter of Bell offering for sale the telephones the company now leases to its residence customers. AT&T has submitted such a proposal to the FCC, but specific guidelines for the sale are still being established. Also, any proposal for the sale of telephones will require approval from state regulators.

Welch added that amid all the changes, Southwestern Bell will do everything possible to ensure a smooth transition.

"We don't intend to skip a beat," she said. "We'll do all we can in the months ahead to minimize any inconvenience stemming from the FCC ruling and other changes."

Welch suggested that phone customers with questions should call the company's "Let's Talk" toll free information number, 800-555-5000.