

We work on the displays for the Chautauqua Isle of Lights. We also feed the workers lunch Monday thru Friday for 23 days!

We provided a meal for 100 children in July for Kids Kafe which is open to all children from infant thru 18 years of age during the summer months. We provided spaghetti and sauce, green beans, bread and butter, milk, applesauce and homemade cookies.

We donated the sign to our local cinema.

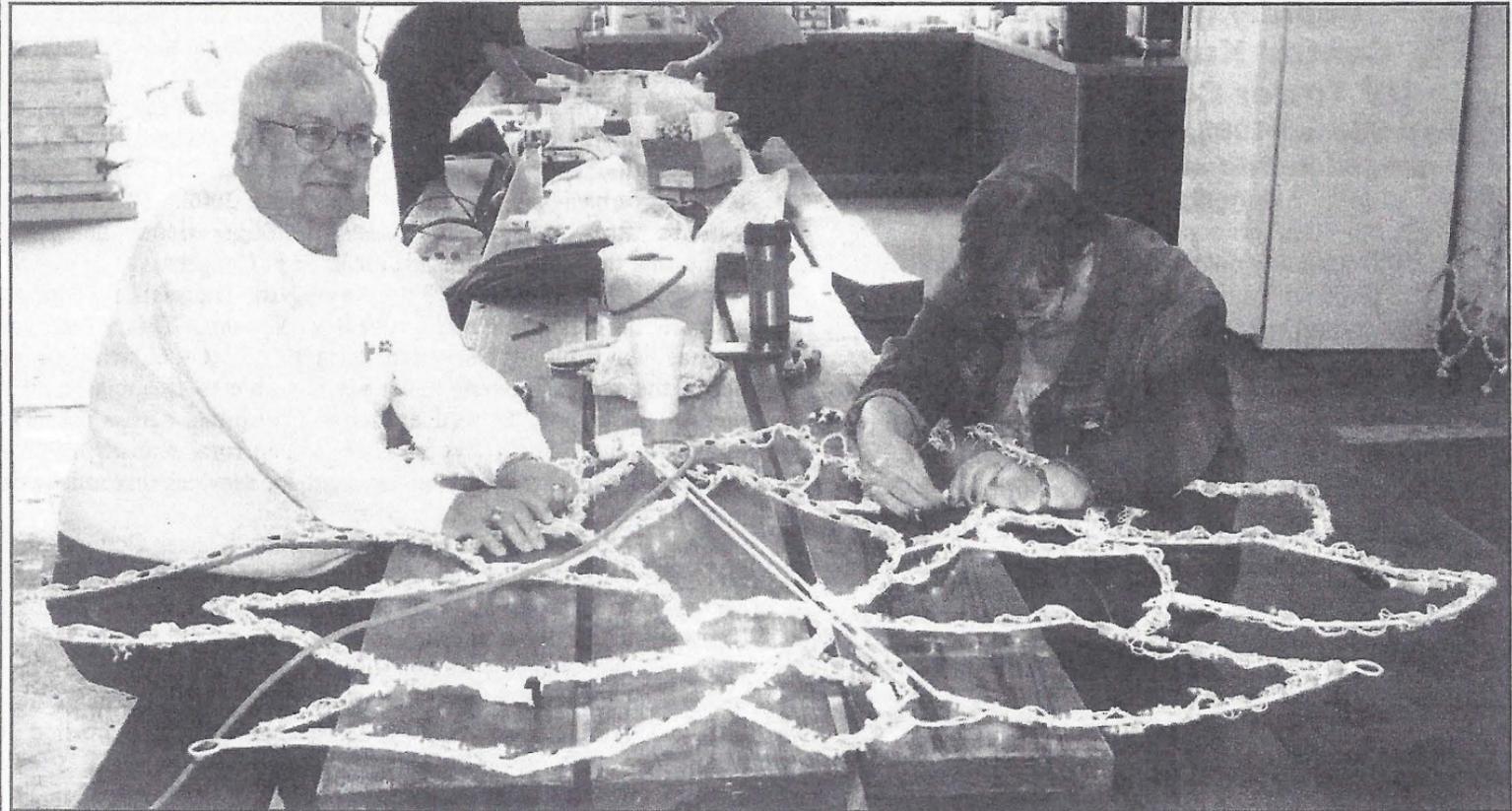
Jim gave a talk at the cemetery on tombstone art. He not only told about how the artwork was done in years gone by, he took tools with him that they could try out on an old piece of marble and granite.

We donated the plaque and lettered the shovel for the Kansas Storytelling festival.

We finally completed a fantastic memorial that we had been working with the family for over 8 years!

We set a memorial at the top of a hill that replaced a limestone post.

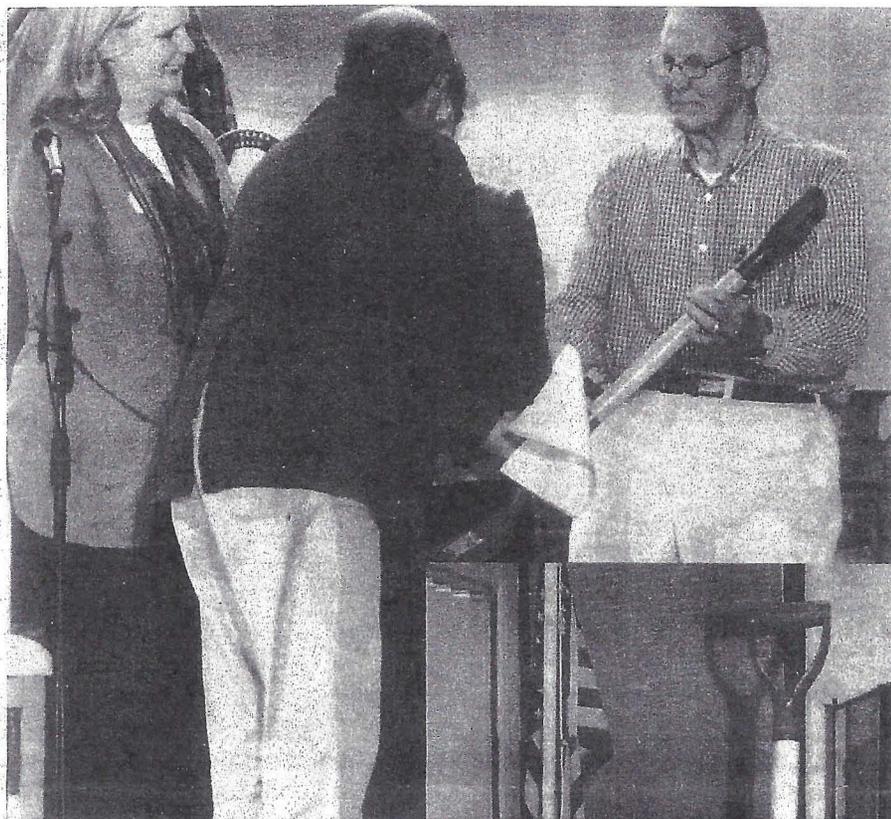
We donated a limestone sign for Luther Park and also a 4 x 8 aluminum sign that told about the park. We also donated manpower and the use of our boom truck to install lights and the basketball goals. Two meals were also donated by us when the members of the congregation got together on a Saturday to put part of the park and equipment together.



Checking lights

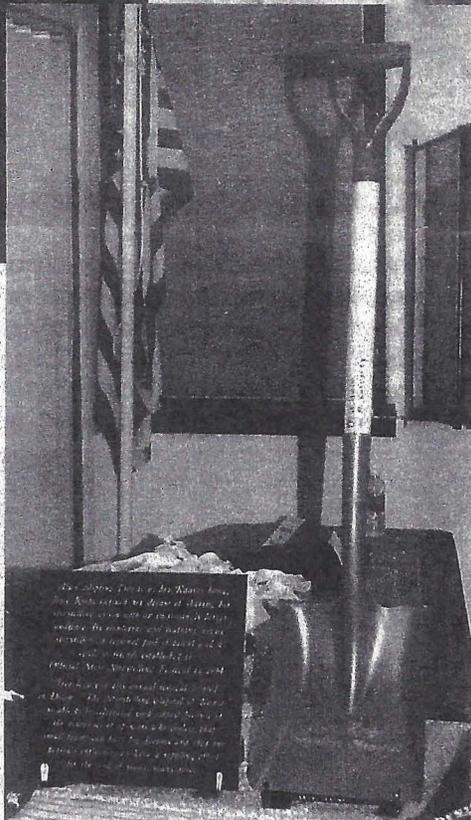
Rebecca Gray photo

Pictured checking bulbs to prepare the angel for display at the isle of lights are Ernie Endsley and Ruth Bell.

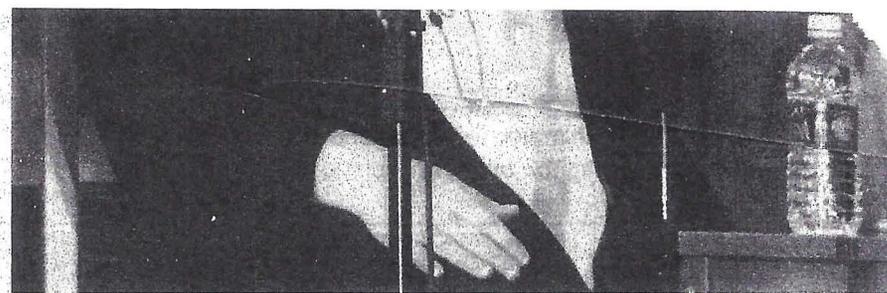


Memorial

Downs Arts Council honored the memory of the late Joyce Koops Friday evening program of the Kansas Storytelling Festival. The festival began in 1994 with the vision of Joyce and has continued to grow since. Kenny Lee presents a shovel in memory of Joyce to her husband Elton Koops, right, and family members Friday evening. Pictured right is the shovel presented to the family and also a plaque made in her honor. Her legacy is this annual festival located in Downs, "The Storytelling Capital of Kansas."



We donated the plaque + lettered the shovel.



Festival finale

Kim Weitkamp closes the 2015 Kansas Storytelling Festival Saturday evening with her stories of growing up. She highlighted on an experience of finally being hired at a diner and singing, "I am a waitress." The job didn't last long because the owner felt she talked too much. Her tales, along with others shared by Adam Booth, Sherry Norfolk, Linda Batlin, and others highlighted this year's festival.

Over 100 make trek in Yellow Brick Run

Two communities joined forces to put on the Yellow Brick 13.1-mile run/bicycle event last Saturday with the route starting in Osborne and ending in Downs. The Downs and Osborne chamber of commerces welcomed over 110 participants

to the first event between the two chambers.

Bicyclers took off from Osborne at 8:45 a.m. and made their way into Downs from the south. A quick pace by Chad Lorenz of Beloit had him Downs in under 40 minutes with a time of 38.4.

Runners and walkers headed east on Main Street in Osborne starting at 9 a.m. The first two runners across the finish line in Downs were Ashley Bedient and Ashley Taylor of Osborne with a time of 1:32.54.

See Run, Page 3



STARTING IN OSBORNE -- Bicyclers take off from Osborne and head east Saturday morning down Main Street.



Tombstone art

Bell Memorial owner Jim Bell presented a fun look on the history of art of tombstones including the tools that would have shaped these great works of art during "Art of Elmwood Cemetery". The Mitchell County Historical Society hosted the event On Sunday at the cemetery in Beloit.

Sharon Sahlfeld photo

Cinema to celebrate Grand Re-opening



The marquis face and CINEMA letters were donated by Jim and Ruth Bell, owners of Bell Signs.

BELOIT – Solomon Valley Cinema will kick off this weekend's special celebration with a showing of *The Martian* at 7 p.m. and *War Room* at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2. Both movie admissions and concession fees will be the same as fees from 1995.

According to the *Beloit Daily Call* at that time, the original grand opening was on Thanksgiving Day in 1995, with admission prices of only \$4 per adult and \$3 for children ages 12 and under.

Saturday, Oct. 3 will be the Cinema's grand reopening and 20th anniversary celebration. Following a chamber ribbon cutting at noon, the Cinema is offering a free showing of *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* at 1 p.m. with concession prices from 1995. On Saturday evening and Sunday, Oct. 4 showings will be back to normal, with 1995 fees for admission and concessions.

"Dinner and movie package prizes will be given away as well as other prizes which will be revealed throughout the weekend," said Manager Amanda Schwerman. "This is our way of thanking our patrons for their support over the last 20 years," she said.

According to Schwerman, the renovations didn't go exactly as planned. There was a projector breakdown on Sept. 10 which was before the Cinema had planned to close. She said because of that, it closed early and the old seats were ripped out then and preparations began for what was to come.

Sonic Equipment Company arrived and began work on the drapery, Monday, Sept. 21 and updated a projector before leaving on Friday, Sept. 25. She said a private contracting company came to install the seats on Tuesday, Sept. 22 and both companies worked around each other. Seats were installed within two and a half days.

The Cinema letters were also put up on Tuesday and the marquis was put up on Thursday, Sept. 24. The marquis face and CINEMA letters were donated by Jim and Ruth Bell, owners of Bell Signs.

"We are really happy with the outcome and we hope our patrons like what we have done," said Schwerman.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
621 N. Mill – Beloit, KS 67420
Phone: 785-738-2701
zionlutheran@nckcn.com

November 20, 2015

Dear Jim & Ruth Bell,

Thank you so much for the two signs you donated to our church. They make a great addition to our park.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Raymer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rev. Richard Raymer
Zion Lutheran Church

Bell Memorials

From: "Patsy Houghton" <plh@ocsmccook.com>
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2015 9:48 AM
To: "Bell Memorials" <bellmemorials@nckcn.com>
Attach: IMG_0668.JPG; IMG_0671.JPG
Subject: Thank You!

Jim, Ruth and Crew,

WOW...Just WOW! Thank you so much for all of your fabulous work! You folks are true craftsmen!
Keith said the top-of-the-hill location created a few challenges...Thanks for working through each of them...
What a wonderful tribute to our folks and the Ranch!
Jim, please invoice me at:



June 30, 2015

Jim, Ruth + Crew,

Thank you again for your fabulous work on the Houghton Family Monument! As I said in my email, you folks are true craftsmen! I'm sure I owe you more dollars for "hazzard pay," asking you to set such a large piece at the top of Clark's Knob hill... Thank you for working through all of the challenges... It's a wonderful addition to the ranch and a great tribute to our parents!

Keith + Debra Houghton
Lea Houghton

Katy + Steve Jensen
Patsy Houghton

you! I've enclosed a copy of part of this week's Iowa News Times for you to read.

Sincerely,
Genevieve Boone

P.S. A gentleman (a cousin of Edton Koops) was so impressed by the plaque that he may contact you about a "homestead" project his family is planning. A word of warning! :)

May 1, 2015

Jim,

Thank you so much for your support and expertise in making the memorial shovel and plaque for the Storytelling Festival. The presentation on Saturday evening's program was very fitting and well-received. Both plaque & shovel were on display all weekend, and we intend to keep them visible as reminders of the contributions of so many. Your own contribution was so generous. Thank

Bell Memorials

From: "Susan Watt" <sds52@gmail.com>
Date: Friday, June 26, 2015 8:35 AM
To: "Jim Bell Memorials" <bellmemorials@nckcn.com>
Subject: Thank you

Jim,

I want to thank you and all your staff for the wonderful job you all did with the Watt monuments. They are beautiful and I could not be more pleased with the way they turned out. It has been a very long and difficult nine and a half years since Sarah's passing. It is such an emotional relief, even more than I anticipated it would be, to have the monuments installed and to be able to go to the cemetery, remember Sarah, and enjoy the beauty of her monument (and ours); beauty for which you and your staff are responsible.

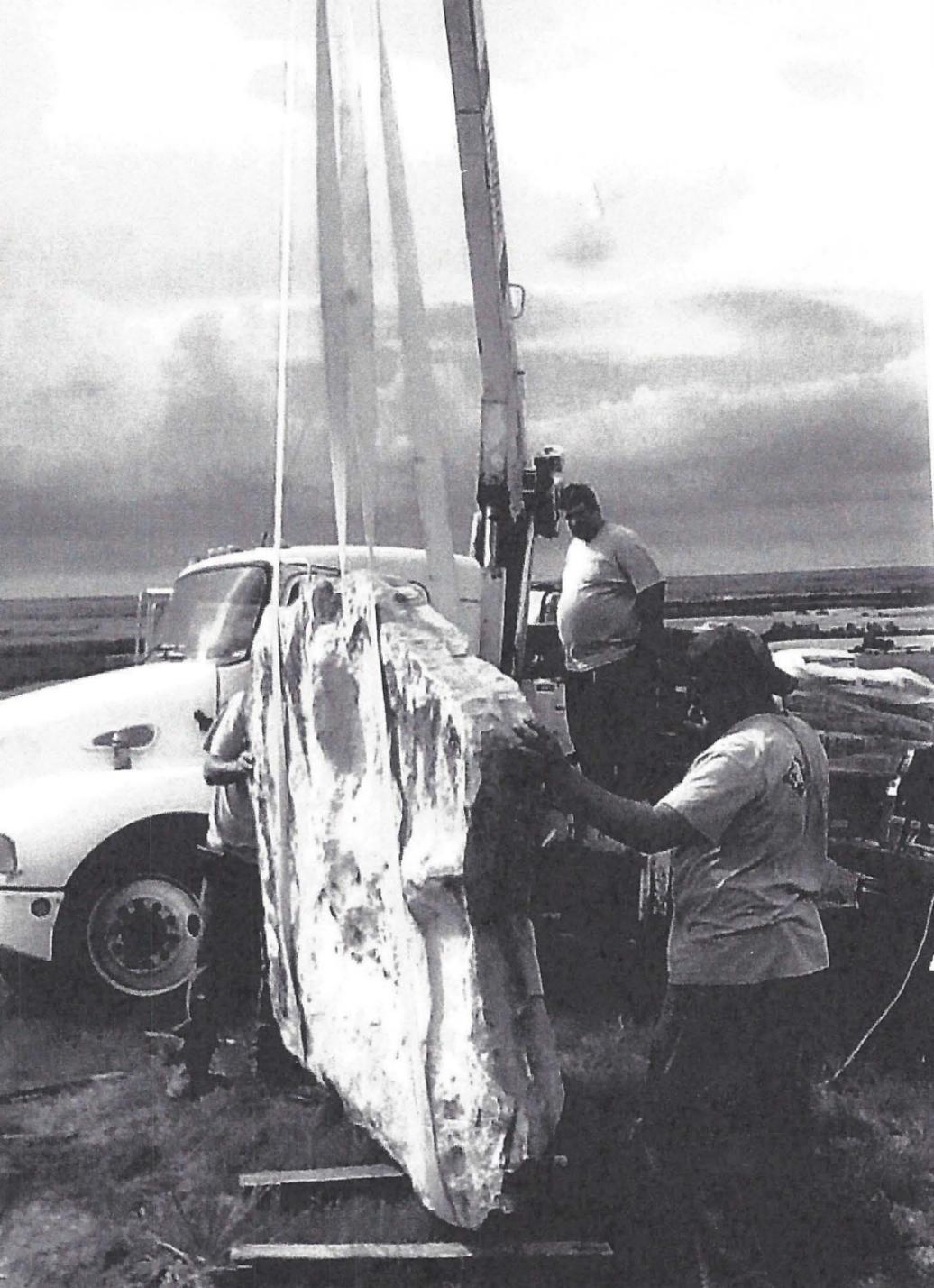
I am certain it is no revelation when I tell you that it is important to me to get things "right", even the smallest of things. When it came to something as important and relatively permanent as these monuments, that desire to get it "right" became even more important, to the point that it nearly stifled me at times. I am absolutely sure my difficulty in making decisions was a frustration for you and your staff during this process, and I most sincerely appreciate your patience with me throughout it all.

Please accept and share with your staff my sincerest gratitude and appreciation for all you have done for me and my family. Your work is beautiful.

Most sincerely,

Susan Watt

*We "worked" on this stone for
8 years!*





**LUTHER
PARK**

The renovation of
Luther Park was made possible
largely through the memorial to
Curt & Joann Norris by their
family.

Also donating from the Memorial
Fund were the families of:
Kate Kindscher Sandy Lawson
Noel Vetter Sharon Weiner
Virginia Vetter Delbert Bryan
Lillian Dooley

Also donating were:
Carol & Phil Thompson & family
Jim & Ruth Bell & family

Many thanks to all the volunteers
who donated time & labor & worked
with Roger Meek

