

FROM THE...



H. LYLE GUY

A familiar visitor to downtown Blair on sunny days is Christopher N. Carson of Crowell Home, whose family were pioneer settlers in Washington County.

The Carson family came from Maine in 1865, making the last part of their journey by team and wagon. They settled on a tract of land in what is now northeast Blair and farmed there for some years. Mr. Carson's father and mother were married in Blair and his grandfather is buried in the Blair cemetery. An uncle, Frank Carson, ran an early day saloon in Blair.

The family moved back across the river to a farm near Soldier, Iowa, in Monona county, where Christopher was born in a log cabin January 7, 1875.

Known to his friends as "Kit Carson", Mr. Carson says that he comes by his nickname honestly. His father was well acquainted with the original Kit Carson, the noted scout and frontiersman, and for a period worked with him in the fur and freighting business. The father so admired the famous scout that he named his son after him. As far as the present Kit knows, there was no relationship between the two Carsons. Kit's grandson, Johnnie Carson, has a son named Kit.

The Carsons moved to a farm near Logan, Iowa, in 1883. Kit was married on December 28, 1898 and went into the feed and grain business in Logan. After several years he sold out and went with the Standard Oil Company as a salesman and auditor in west central Iowa. Later he kept books for a number of firms in Logan, retiring at the age of 85.

Among the things of which Mr. Carson is most proud is his record of public service. He served

several terms on the town council of Logan and two terms as mayor.

In his second election, he was the target of a write-in campaign conducted by the proprietors of several "amusement parlors" in town, but won handily.

After his re-election, Mr. Carson called on each operator and told them "Boys, I know just what has been going on in your places, and I am notifying you now that you had better stay strictly within the law from now on". Later, he called in the county sheriff and eight officers from Missouri Valley, and raided six places at the same moment. All received \$100 fines for violations, and Logan became noted as one of the driest spots in western Iowa.

Perhaps Mr. Carson's most famous relative is his grandson, Johnnie Carson of the TV "Tonight" show, whose father, H. L. Carson is with the Consumer's Power District at Columbus. John's father and mother are frequent visitors at Crowell Home, and John has visited him there.

Asked if he watched Johnnie's show, Kit replied, "Not very often. He just comes on too late for us here at the home."

Mr. Carson has another son, Ray E. Carson of Denver and a daughter, Mrs. R. L. Webb of McClain, Va. whose husband is a Colonel in the US Air Force. He has 13 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Carson came to Crowell Home on July 1, 1962, where Mrs. Carson died about two years ago. Although almost 94 years old, Kit Carson is still spry and takes his daily walk. On good days last summer and fall, he frequently walked downtown, although he admits he sometimes rode back.

Mrs. Wakefield Died At Herman Wednesday

Py 12-16-68

Mrs. Jennie Wakefield, wife of the late Tom Wakefield, died at her home at Herman Wednesday, December 11th. Mrs. Wakefield was 77 years old.

Jennie Hazel Cunningham was born at Creston, Iowa July 19, 1891 and she grew to the age of a young woman there.

She was married September 20, 1909 at Creston to Thomas Wakefield, Jr. of Broken Bow, Nebraska. Following her marriage she moved with her husband to Broken Bow where they lived on a farm until the spring of 1925. At that time they moved to a farm east of Herman and in 1943 they moved into Herman and retired from active farming.

Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield became the parents of three sons, Roy A. Wakefield of Fremont, Warren O. of Herman and Marion T. Wakefield, of Blair.

Mrs. Wakefield, with her husband, were active members of the Methodist Church both at Broken Bow and later at Herman. She was active in her church circle up until the time of her death.

In addition to her church work, she carried on an active interest in the Order of Eastern Star and was a Past Matron of the Order. She had been a member for over 50 years and frequently filled the various offices when called upon.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1966 and by one sister, three brothers and a grandson, Wayne Wakefield.

She is survived by her three sons, 5 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Also surviving is a sister, Mrs. Esther Garner, of Joplin, Missouri and two brothers. They are George O. Cunningham, of Bartlesville, Okla. and Walter W. Cunningham, of Venice, California. There are also a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at the Methodist Church in Herman. The Rev. Zack Kleinsasser conducted the services and burial was made in the Herman Cemetery. Graveside rites were conducted by members of the Order of Eastern Star.

The casketbearers were Allan Yowell, George Fitch, William Hart, Eugene Husk, R. Clare Johnson and Howard Hanson, Jr.

16-68
KEEGAN—Francis Joseph, age 76 years, Ft. Calhoun, Neb. Survived by sister, Mrs. Teresa Neuman, Blair; brothers, Lucas, Blair, John, Ft. Calhoun, Kenneth, Kensington, Md. Rosary Bendorf Funeral Home Thursday, 7:30 p. m. Requiem Mass St. Francis Parish Church, Friday