10 years ago: May 28, 2008

There is only one way to describe this weekend’s Abdallah Shrine Rodeo: Muddy. The more than five inches of rain during the weekend left the Leavenworth County Fairgrounds a soggy mess, causing a problem for the more than 300 riders and performers.

“According to Bennie Beutler, the stock contractor, the mud was about 10 to 12 inches deep on Thursday,” said Gary Bennett, chief rabban for the Shriners. “My wife was out in the arena when they crowned the queen and she lost both shoes in the mud. We had to dig her shoes out of the mud.

Memorial Day unofficially kicked off the start of the summer season, and in Tonganoxie is also kicked off the first time local liquor retailers were able to sell alcohol on the holiday. On May 5, the Tonganoxie City Council voted 3-2 to allow the sale of alcohol on Memorial Day, Labor Day and Independence Day if those holidays fell on a weekday.

25 years ago: June 2, 1993

Memorial Day services were observed Sunday at Hubbel Hill Cemetery, west of Tonganoxie. Walter Wiley welcomed those in attendance and Rev. Robert Kasper was the speaker. Music was provided by Darlene Overbaugh and Charlene Snell. Jason Sparks and Brian Gasbey served as buglers.

Ted Grinter plants soybeans in a field of corn stalks Thursday. This is the first year the Grinters tried the method of not working the ground before planting. The new machine is 15 feet wide and plants rows about seven inches apart. The wet spring delayed corn planting and many farmers are now planting beans instead. Many of the fields are now dry enough to be worked.

Eneas Queliroz is the first Foreign Exchange student to graduate from Tonganoxie High School. The Brazilian graduated last week with 98 others. His host family in Tonganoxie is Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kerns.

Margaret Gallagher spoke about Dr. Walter B. Coe at the historical society meeting. Dr, Coe practiced medicine in Tonganoxie from 1896 until his death in 1950. He practice on the corner where Mutual Savings now stands. If you remember, there was a hedge fence and half way around was an opening to his home and office. In his office, there was a tall desk with an assortment of medicine bottles, a couple of chairs, an old examining table, some pictures on the wall, and a small bed. He was known as the “pneumonia doctor” and other doctors would call him in for consultations. He was a horse and buggy driving a white horse. He bought his first car in 1910, and it was a one cylinder Brush automobile.

50 years ago: May 23, 1968

The 1968 graduation class at Tonganoxie was at 69.

The Methodist Church was planning an expansion with architectural renderings posted in the Mirror.

The editor’s longest story of this week was about the life of mason Nick Marel. This history of his stopping here on the way to California, his projects around town and his 2/3 completed home at Fifth and Church (to supposedly avoid taxes). His workmanship still stands up to time and can easily be seen in the Leroy Somers stone house and barn along 24-40.

Memorial Day was May 30th, falling on a Thursday, with services planned at local churches and cemeteries.

The last day of school was May 24th with the freshly painted pool opening May 26th.

There was an Annual Alumni Banquet for all Tonganoxie Graduates on May 11th that included 18 showing up from the class of 1918.
75 years ago: May 27, 1943

News has been received that, yes, indeed, Ed Willert is a War Prisoner. The family received a letter from the US Army that he was captured during the campaign in North Africa. It is believed that he is being held in Germany.

Poll the Parrot, a forty-year old pet bird has perished. Polly has had numerous write ups in this paper and will likely be missed by her owner, Mrs. Clyde Hunter, who had taught Polly to sing. The parrot won awards at the county fair and had learned how to sing Christmas carols to entertain guests.

Mr. Gordon Harman has announced the marriage of his sister, Genevieve to Norman Hemphill. The wedding took place in Washington where the groom is stationed. Both husband and wife are graduates of the University of Kansas and will reside in Seattle.

By shopping at Musil’s Bakery you can eat the same healthy enriched bread that the US Army serves to our fighting forces. Bread is a great point saver, so serve plenty of it at every meal.

Do some comparison shopping - jar rubbers are only 19 cents at HGF Stores and going for 22 cents at IGA. But you can make some savings on barbecue sauce this week-cheaper bottles at the IGA. Save your cash and buy war bonds.

100 years ago: May 30, 1918

Sunrise Dairy. Notice to Milk Customers – From the 1st of June to the 1st of September, milk will be delivered in the evening at 10 cents a quart. No milk delivered without bottles returned. M.I. Younger and Son.

Dr. J.W. Layton at the Myers Hotel every second Friday. Spectacles and artificial eyes adjusted. Next date Friday, May 31.

Herbert Hoover, U.S. Food Administrator, is sending out notices that “it is imperative that all those whose circumstances permit shall abstain from wheat and wheat products in any form until the next harvest.” He also urges that the consumption of meat be reduced to two pounds each person a week.

The value of a tractor for dragging streets and roads was shown in town on Saturday. Two drags, well weighed down, were put behind the tractor and pulled over the streets. Thos. Chandler supervised the job. It was the best job ever done on the city streets. Horses cannot pull as heavy a drag as a tractor.

125 years ago: June 1, 1893

Flourished a Revolver. Joints make a town lively, so do saloons. We have heard this over and over again, and from our observation we believe that those whose sympathies are with the liquor traffic, are correct. Take for instance our own town, and that statement can be demonstrated by passing events.

Last Saturday, a vivid illustration might have been seen. A young man from Neely named McWilliams tarried at the joints until he was filled with alleged whiskey. Soon he got into a fighting mood and sailed forth to do battle and tackled Joseph Hall for an engagement. Joe got ready to resent the onslaught and the young man drew a revolver which he failed to use. Later on, the young man used very vile language on the streets, in the presence of ladies. Though the city marshal was sent for, there was no arrest.

Yes, joints make a town lively and whiskey makes men fools.