

KWN is an exceptional educational tool, allowing young people to express their feelings and share their perceptions of our world. With this program, our youth can tell us what they value—what is important to them. In addition, students gain valuable experience in news gathering and video production.

This Program is especially important because it provides public school students with education, professional development, instruction, and access to technology—essential ingredients for future success, at a time when these young people have the potential to be anything they aspire to be.

The great success of KWN would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Panasonic, its staff, and numerous volunteers; and congratulations to the talented students and dedicated teachers who have contributed as well—you are all an asset to our communities and our schools.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Panasonic-sponsored Kids Witness News program on its 10th anniversary; and congratulations to this year's "New Vision" award winners.

MARCIA WAGNER, CHAMPION OF CHILDREN

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise now during Teacher Appreciation Week to honor a devoted teacher from my Congressional district. Mrs. Marcia Wagner has taught music to thousands of students in Sterling, Colorado over her thirty-year career. After teaching at several of Sterling's grade schools, Mrs. Wagner completed her career on a high note at Sterling Middle School as a recipient of the Francis Gillespie Excellence Award—an award honoring her commitment to children.

In Sterling, Colorado, like many places in the West, there is a reliance on family and community. Mrs. Wagner embodies these values which are so prevalent throughout the district I represent. She has been a role model and has profoundly influenced thousands of students by putting children first and looking to parents and the local community for support.

During Teacher Appreciation Week, which recognizes a first-rate education system and properly functioning democracy requires a partnership between educators, parents, and children; let us look to Marcia Wagner, a champion of children and community.

TRIBUTE TO WILBUR J. HENRICHS

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Wilbur J. Henrichs of Danforth, Illinois. For the last 64 years, Mr. Henrichs has served farmers in his feed store, the Danforth Hatchery. I am sad to say that on March 25th,

Mr. Henrichs retired at the age of 87 and the Danforth Hatchery closed for business.

The Danforth Hatchery opened for business in 1936 with Mr. Henrichs managing the store. It was a feed and supply store and at one point served as a poultry hatchery. After managing the store for a few years, Mr. Henrichs took ownership and has operated the store ever since. Over time, his the local suppliers have closed forcing him to drive over 200 miles to pick up his inventory, never once passing his increased delivery charges onto his customers. He is well known to farmers throughout the area for his reliability and willingness to lend a helping hand.

In addition to running the Hatchery, Mr. Henrichs has made outstanding contributions to the community through various civic activities. He has been active in his church and served as Village Clerk for over 40 years. In addition, Mr. Henrichs devotes his time and money to the 4-H and FFA groups in support of local youth and their involvement in agriculture.

As a life long resident of Danforth, Mr. Henrichs is known for his quiet, unselfish leadership. Over the years, he has touched countless lives in his daily routine. He continues to serve as a role model through his leadership, sense of humor and humanitarian attitude. On behalf of the citizens of Danforth and those he has served, I thank him for his dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the distinguished service to agriculture and the Danforth Community of Mr. Henrichs; for his leadership and professional commitment to stewardship of the land and providing food and fiber to the world.

DANFORTH HATCHERY CLOSURES AFTER 64 YEARS

(By Mike Lyons)

DANFORTH—Time was this place reverberated with the "cheeps" of a thousand newly hatched chicks and sparked with the animated chatter of newlyweds placing orders for the family coop.

Time was the heavy front door of Danforth's downtown hatchery swung wide as grade school classes trooped in to witness life making its tenuous beginning beneath the "hen warm" lights of the incubator trays.

And time was proprietor Wilbur Henrichs welcomed such "intrusions" in his business day, including the daily visits of village kibitzers, curious kids and connoisseurs of that cutthroat card game called "Pepper."

In the process he became an indelible fixture in the lives of the rural community of Danforth and beyond—the matrix of hometown memory. A man they respectfully call "a treasure."

On Saturday generations of Wilbur's friends, and a sizable contingent of family, dropped by to help him end an era.

At 88, Wilbur elected to end business Saturday and close his cavernous 19th Century landmark on Danforth's main downtown intersection.

But if one supposed Wilbur's quitting business after having provided "quality chicks since 1936," would somehow escape to notice the organs of modern agricultural communication, one would be dead wrong.

Late Friday no less a luminary than WGN radio's Max Armstrong, phoned to wish Wilbur well in retirement.

Wilbur accepts the unexpected tribute with hallmark humility, his eyes twinkling just beneath the bill of a Golden Sun Feeds cap,

its visor characteristically tilted just a bit to the right.

"It was fascinating to come in here in the spring, being a little kid, and seeing all these things," says Danforth native John Tammen, a farm manager in the Kankakee office of Soy Capital Ag Services.

But youngsters could observe far more than the mysteries of life unfolding at the hatchery.

They could observe the basics of small town business—Wilbur style.

"When Wilbur wasn't here—when he was making a delivery, or something—you could go over to the feed store (across the street), pick up what you wanted then come back over here and write it on the bill and sign you're name to it."

That accounting—called the "honor system" in some quarters—was good enough for Wilbur, who'd send his bill in due course.

Just outside, the seven foot tall fiberglass rooster townsmen doubled "Big Wilbur," stands his last watch on main street.

Ranks of Wilbur's well wishers use the fiberglass fowl as backdrop for farewell pictures with their favorite businessman.

And everywhere, "Wilbur recollections" are being offered by those whose lives he has some way touched.

Take Ashkum's David Trout, who along with his wife Virginia, have operated the petting zoo at the Iroquois County Fair for the past 15 years.

According to Trout, "Wilbur style" because dealings helped ensure the zoo could survive its early financial challenges.

"When we first started, we'd run some big feed bills and he'd never say anything to us. We were young and just trying to get started," notes Trout.

Just outside, village board member Denny Johnson stands near "Big Wilbur," recalling his own youthful visits to the hatchery.

"Classes would come up on little field trips," notes Johnson, 54, adding that he too was a "field trip" participant some three and a half decades ago.

"He's great guy," says Johnson a village board member.

None here would dispute that assessment, least of all Randy Johnson, Denny's brother, also a member of the village board.

"He doesn't have an enemy in the world!" But what's Wilbur plan for retirement?

That fact is, Wilbur's not certain.

"I guess I'll have to think of something," he says, a grin quickly growing.

Maybe he'll join the ranks of the Pepper players he's hosted over the years.

As he says, "it keeps seniors off the streets and hold down senior delinquency."

But the Pepper gang will have to find new digs before that can happen. Wilbur just laughs when it's suggested that the Pepper crew might want to buy his building—a bit of a salty investment, even for this seasoned crew of card players.

Rumor has it that the Pepper players may find temporary quarters at a local church. A convenient venue given that many have likely prayed for better hands a time or two.

Saturday will mark a new chapter in Danforth's history when Wilbur Henrichs closes the Danforth Hatchery. An open house is being held in Wilbur's honor from 8:30 to 12:30 and we would urge you to go.

Wilbur is one of those guys who has made life a little more interesting. When you're talking to him you can't afford to relax, because about the time you do, Wilbur, with tongue firmly in cheek, will come through with one of those one-liners he likes to slip in.

Wilbur went back in time with us Monday and told us he started working at the hatchery in 1936 and bought the store from Edgar Brockman in 1955. During the war years Wilbur said the hatchery produced thousands of chicks. Wilbur continued to turn out chicks until last year when he had to start turning orders down for the first time in 64 years.

The times when the hatchery ran 24 hours per day was nerve wracking, Wilbur said. You'd never know when a fuse might blow as it did one night, resulting in the loss of 4,000 chickens.

There's a lot of history attached to the building that houses the hatchery. The building has housed a grocery store and barbershop and Wilbur says he can remember coming uptown to see the toys in the window around Christmas.

Wilbur is a little concerned about what he's going to do when he retires. He says he has some things he has to dispose of and the hatchery has been the home to a number of card players for years and Wilbur feels a responsibility to "keep them off the streets".

**BILL TO ESTABLISH OFFICE OF
CORRECTIONAL HEALTH**

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which would establish an Office of Correctional Health within the Department of Health and Human Services.

According to the Department of Justice (DOJ), the United States is second only to Russia among industrialized nations in incarceration rates with nearly 2 million people in jail or prison. The fuel that feeds this prison population explosion is comprised of several components. Mandatory minimum and "three-strikes" sentencing laws have resulted in longer sentences and more frequent incarcerations. A look at the changing demographics in American prisons and jails sheds light on the challenges correction facilities face at the beginning of the 21st century.

According to DOJ, 57 percent of state prisoners and 45 percent of federal prisoners surveyed in 1997 said they had used drugs in the month before their offense. A whopping 83 percent of state prisoners and 73 percent of federal prisoners had used drugs at some time in the past. It is estimated that about three-quarters of all inmates can be characterized as being involving in alcohol or drug abuse in the time leading to their arrest.

In the first comprehensive report on mental illness in correctional facilities, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) found that seven percent of federal inmates and 16 percent of those in state prisons or local jails or on probation said they either had a mental condition or had stayed over night in a mental hospital unit or treatment program. The highest rate of mental illness was among white females in state prisons at 29 percent. For white females age 24 or younger this level rose to almost 40 percent. When compared to other inmates, mentally ill inmates and probationers reported higher rates of prior physical and sexual abuse. According to BJS, nearly 6 in 10 mentally ill offenders reported they were under the

influence of alcohol and drugs at the time of their current offense. Many people do not know that the Los Angeles City jail is now the largest mental institution in the United States, holding 3,300 seriously mentally ill inmates on any given night.

The increased incarceration rate of women also presents new health care challenges to correctional facilities. According to BJS, in 1998 an estimated 950,000 women were under custody, care or control of correctional agencies. Nearly 6 in 10 women in state prisons had experienced physical or sexual abuse in the past. This statistic, coupled with the reality that 7 in 10 women under correctional sanction have minor children, points to the acute need for counseling services. Women inmates utilize health care services at higher rates than men. Because of their need for reproductive health care, including sexually transmitted diseases, and the possibility of pregnancy either upon entry into the correction system or during, women's special health care needs must be addressed in a comprehensive fashion.

The health care needs of inmates have expanded as the incarcerated population has aged. As inmates grow old in prison they succumb to the same ailments which afflict the elderly in the outside world—diabetes, heart disease and stroke. These geriatric health care needs represent another challenge to correctional agencies in providing adequate care.

In 1996, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention formed an ad hoc working group, the Cross Centers Correctional Work Group made up of health professionals from across CDC. The purpose of the group is to focus attention on the complex health needs of incarcerated men, women, and youth in the United States. I commend the work of this group and the fine efforts of CDC in addressing the very complex health issues associated with correctional facilities.

According to CDC, in 1994 AIDS diagnoses were almost six times more prevalent among the incarcerated population than among the general U.S. population. Further, inmates coming into correctional facilities are increasingly at risk for HIV infection through risk behaviors such as needle sharing and unprotected sex. Also, tuberculosis (TB) is another important public health issue in prisons and jails according to CDC. TB infection rates are substantially higher among inmates because conditions associated with TB (poverty, drug use, HIV infection, etc.) are more common in the incarcerated population than the general U.S. population.

Rates of infectious disease are known to be higher among inmates than in the general population and because most inmates are released after they've served their time, without treatment, these infected inmates threaten the public health of the community upon release.

All of these alarming statistics contribute to the need for the establishment of an Office of Correctional Health with HHS. Such an office would coordinate all correctional health programs within HHS; provide technical support to State and local correctional agencies on correctional health; cooperate with other Federal agencies carrying out correctional health programs to ensure coordination; provide out-

reach to State directors of correctional health and providers; and facilitate the exchange of information regarding correctional health activities.

Mr. Speaker, with a growing diverse and medically complex population in America's prisons and jails, we must ensure that inmates are provided the health care they need, that staff members operate in a safe working environment, and as a result, public safety is enhanced.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to official business at the White House, I was unable to record my vote on rollcall No. 154, raising a point of order against the consideration of H.R. 3709 as an unfunded mandate. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay"—against consideration of H.R. 3709.

**CONGRATULATING THE COMMUNITY
HEALTHCARE NETWORK OF
THE COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, RE-
GIONAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today, during National Hospital Week, I honor accomplishments of the Community Healthcare Network. Earlier this week, the American Hospital Association presented its prestigious NOVA award to the Community Healthcare Network, which was established by Columbus Regional Healthcare System of Columbus, Georgia. This award recognizes hospitals' innovative and collaborative efforts to improve the health of their communities. I congratulate the dedicated health care workers of the Community Healthcare Network for achieving this important recognition.

The Community Healthcare Network—a collaboration of public and private entities serving 19 counties in west Georgia and east Alabama—exemplifies the dedication of health care workers, professionals, and volunteers who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, curing and caring for their neighbors in need. Using the results of each county's baseline health status surveys, the Community Healthcare Network developed programs to meet each community's specific health needs. For example, primary health care centers were opened to serve children and adults in three rural counties. To increase accessibility, fees are based on the patients' abilities to pay.

The Community Care Mobile Unit travels throughout the service area providing primary case services to the homeless and indigent. Once a week, the unit visits locations selected by teens to provide teen health services. In other collaborative projects, the network has led the way to establish a children's dental