

# Homegrown: Pack your bags for Salina

By Mary Ellen Main  
(WRITER'S NOTE: It's been a busy time at our house. I submitted my last article in mid-October. In November I participated in National Novel Writing Month [NaNoWriMo], an online challenge to write a novel during the month of November with a total of 50,000 words. I completed my 50,000 words on November 20 but my story was not complete. Finally, on the last day of November, my story was finished with 99,323 words. I'd averaged 2,500 words per day. Yes, it took up much of my time. And no, it's definitely not a finished work though the story is complete. It needs tons of editing! I've already thought of some things I want to do to change the story itself, but making myself sit there and write, write, write did help to get some ideas going. Because of taking time out for that, I didn't get many Christmas cards sent, but I did manage to decorate for Christmas. Our daughter, Briana, came to visit in early December for an overnight on her way to Joplin then came back through on December 21 so we could celebrate our fam-

ily Christmas. We traditionally put our tree up on Thanksgiving, or on the years we've been visiting extended family for Thanksgiving we put it up on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year we were running a little late, but I got the tree up right before Briana made her first appearance. She left to go back to Phoenix on the morning of December 24 and that evening we had our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. This year was the first year I played piano for the candlelight service plus I've been playing more for church than usual, so that's kept me busy [though probably not as busy as it should—seems I should be playing really well by now, but I still make those pesky mistakes]. I edited a short story for a contest in the United Kingdom that had a December 30 deadline and submitted it, I sent in two romance stories to Woman's World for their Valentine's call for submissions plus now I'm working on some pieces for Oklahoma Writer's Federation Inc.'s [O.W.F.I.] writing contest. It opened on January 1 and will close on February 1. There

are several categories to enter so I'm trying to get my work organized. I know that all sounds terribly impressive but my most challenging thing right now is getting past my mindset this holiday. It's been ten Christmases since we lived in the house we're back in [the parsonage] so it's been difficult to get my thoughts together. After Briana headed back to her home in Phoenix right before Christmas, it was like experiencing empty nest syndrome all over again. [A friend told me I needed to get a pet. ?] These stories don't help because they bring back so many memories. Hopefully sharing them with you, my readers, will give you some entertainment. It's also a challenge knowing just what to share because once the stories are published I cannot use them for contest pieces or in magazines since most of those don't accept previously published work. All that being said, let's see if I can get this going again. Pick up that cup of coffee and come with me as we start the new year visiting my homegrown memories. Our family had left Oklahoma, but, as I've said in earlier articles, Oklahoma never left me.)

To bring you up to speed, when we lived in Glen Elder, Kansas, Rick divulged to me that he'd "always wanted" to be a police officer. Hmm. Maybe some things are better left unknown. It did seem to us that he might be home a little more if he had one full-time job rather than four part-time jobs. Little did we know how all that would play out. He applied for several police departments and then we spent months waiting to hear back from them at each stage of the application process. Most of the departments had a "Don't call us, we'll call you" policy. As we waited, we discovered the calming properties of Blue Bunny Chunky Chocolate Ice Cream. Well, I suppose there's something good that comes out of most everything. In the middle of the process of trying one department then another, he was called in for an inter-

view with Wichita Police Department. Things looked pretty serious so at that point, he shaved. (His reserve work had not required that.) The kids and I all watched him shave because none of us had seen him without a beard. I'd seen pictures, but by the time we'd met in college he had a goatee. Even after shaving, he did not make the cut (pun intended) for the Salina Police Department. It seemed everything he tried came out a "no" but for different reasons. At one police department, their doctor had taken one look at Rick's curved spine and said, "There's no way you can work for us." Another said if he was able to complete the obstacle course, curved spine or not, he would remain eligible for the position.

Each time it called for more Blue Bunny Ice Cream so it was a wonder he was able to move at all for some of the strenuous physical requirements. Finally, the Salina Police Department in Salina, Kansas, showed an interest and, after completing the requirements of employment, Rick was hired. He gave notice at the church in Glen Elder, at the Youth Center at Beloit where he'd been chaplain, at the Beloit Police Department and at Mitchell County Sheriff's Office. We found a 2-bedroom apartment in a quadruplex near the school where Gene would be attending and 1 1/2 - 2 miles from the police department. We had one vehicle, our 1989 red-and-white Bronco II, that we'd made so many memories with so we were going to have to work around that.

Alas, we'd had our share of moving and knew the "drill." We'd sell whatever's wasn't absolutely necessary, especially since we were moving from a huge four-bedroom home to a small two-bedroom apartment. One of the difficult things to sell was Briana's crib since it had made it through both kids. A church in Edwardsville, at the edge of Kansas City, had given it to us before Gene was born. It was (See MAIN, Page 5)

## Town & Country Realty

45 West Second Street  
Beaver, OK 73932

**NEW LISTING: 1206 Ave B, \$65,000** - 3 BR, 1 bath, new roof & new paint on the outside. App. 1300 sq. ft., 1 car att garage.

**NEW LISTING: 324 Ave N, \$155,000** - 4 or 5 BR, 2 1/2 bath brick home. Has app. 2,150 sq. ft. living area and 721 sq. ft. in finished basement. CH&CA, sprinkler system, updated roof, updated windows, kitchen, granite counter tops, double carport, enclosed area for RV. Attached garage that is heated and cooled. Corner lot, patio, fenced in back yard. Nice neighborhood.

### AREA LISTINGS:

Various residential lots in Guymon, OK. Call for details.

**2006 Easy St., Guymon, OK \$168,500** 3 BR, 2 bath brick home. App. 1,560 sq. ft. with 2 car att. garage. Fenced in yard, new addition of Guymon. SOLD

### BEAVER, OK PROPERTIES

**317 W. 6th, \$25,000** -2 BR, 1 bath, adobe style. Updated roof, kitchen, corner lot.

**1118 Ave B \$27,000** -3 BR, 1 1/4 bath siding home. CH&A, new roof, one car att. garage. app. 1,500 sq. ft.

**24 East 10th St. \$22,000** 3 BR, 1 1/4 bath masonite siding home. One car att. garage. Has app. 1,600 sq. ft. CH&A, corner lot. Good rental property or first time homeowner.

**802 Ave E \$118,500** -4 BR, 2 bath siding home. Has CH&A, fenced in back yard, 1 car att. garage. Has app 1,450 sq ft on main floor and 1,450 sq. ft. in the finished basement. Nice location.

**922 W 1st \$122,500** -Lot size 150x150. 3 BR, 1 1/4 bath brick home. Has new CH&CA unit, updated 2018 with new flooring, kitchen, etc. Has fenced in back yard, corner lot, 2 car attached garage. Fireplace, 2 living areas, app. 1,750 sq. ft. Has lots of extras. - PRICE REDUCED!

**707 Douglas \$55,000** -Lot size 97x140. 3 BR, 1 bath stucco home. Has CH&CA, app. 1,300 sq. ft., new windows, storm cellar, wood floors. Great starter home.

**723 Ave F \$59,900** 2 or 3 BR, 1 bath home. CH&CA, corner lot, 2 car detached garage, carport, basement.

**302 Ave H \$85,000 PRICE REDUCED!** 3 BR, 2 bath wood siding home. Has CH&CA - 2 yrs. Has app. 1,870 sq. ft. has large finished basement, corner lot, double carport, 1 car att. garage.

**216 E. 2nd St. \$59,900** 2 BR, 2 bath metal siding home. Has app. 1,300 sq. ft., CH&A, 2 car att. garage, fenced in back yard. Great starter home. **PRICE REDUCED**

**216 Ave H \$59,900** 4 BR, 2 bath siding home. Has app. 880 sq. ft. on main floor and 800 in finished basement. Detached garage, fenced in yard. Good investment property.

**423 W 4th St \$145,000** 4 BR, 2 1/2 bath brick home. Lot size 150x140, CH&CA, 2 living areas, corner lot, app. 3,300 sq. ft. Lots of extras. **PRICE FURTHER REDUCED**

**1018 West 2nd Street \$249,000** Lot size 125x125, 3 or 4 BR, 2 bath home has app. 2,500 sq. ft. Appliances stay, fireplace, sprinkler system, metal roof, recently updated. Has a 25,000 gallon inground pool, fenced in back yard, 2 living areas. Lots of extras, attached garage 25 ft x 50 ft. Have to see to appreciate. **PRICE REDUCED**

**502 Ave K. \$74,000 Lot size 60x140** 3 BR, 1 bath siding home. Has app 1,410 sq. ft., CH&A, 1 car att. garage, corner lot. Great starter home.

**323 Ave F. \$74,000** 4 BR, 2 bath, siding home. Corner lot, has app. 2,644 sq. ft., 2 car att. garage. Appliances stay, covered porch, fenced in yard. New roof, paint on the outside. **PRICE REDUCED**

**501 Ave A. \$45,000** 2 BR, 1 bath on main floor, full unfinished basement. Corner lot, rewired, replumbed, out bldg. Nice starter home or investment property. **PRICE REDUCED**

**101 Ave M. \$155,000 Lot Size 90x140,** 3 or 4 BR, 2 bath home. Has app 3,000 sq. ft. CH&A, wood burning stove, fenced in yard. Has 12 in. walls, steel beams every six feet, one car att. garage. Will sell lot to the south of property, which is 67x10 ft. for \$8,000 extgra, will not sell separate from the house. **PRICE REDUCED**

**421 Ave A. \$45,000 Lot Size 50x140,** 2 BR, 1 bath Masonite siding home. Has CH&A, corner lot, app. 1,210 sq. ft. 1 Car attached garage, appliances stay. Great starter home. - **PRICE REDUCED!**

### BEAVER COUNTY LAND

**Rt. 2 Box 123, 1 1/2 Miles West of Bryans Corner \$145,000** 3 BR, 2 bath 1997 Solitaire mobile home, 28x72 ft. Has CH&CA - 8 yrs. Carport 28x32 ft. All appliances stay. Bricked, private septic and water well. Sits on 20 acres. **PRICE REDUCED**

**5 MILES SOUTH & 5 EAST OF ELMWOOD** 150 Acres in Sec. 24-1-24. Has water, electricity. In CRP program for 3 more years.

**SW 1/4 of Sec. 14** cult., 98 acres cult., rest grass (church quarter) NW 1/4 of Sec. 27 80 acres cult. And 80 acres grass \$800 acre, no minerals **PRICE REDUCED**

**SW 1/4 of Sec. 27** - Call for details. **PRICE REDUCED** \$800/acre

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## Open House for Ponderosa Wind Energy Center

An affiliate of NextEra Energy Resources is proposing to build a wind energy generation facility in Beaver County. Residents are invited to stop in, meet our team, and discuss the proposed project.

For additional information visit: [PonderosaWind.com](http://PonderosaWind.com)

Thursday, Jan. 30  
from 5 – 7 p.m.

Location:  
Balko Public School  
RT 1 Box 37  
Balko, OK 73931

Light refreshments will be served.