



# Johnson's Garden Talk

Newsletter archives ... for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

## Johnson's Garden Talk

May 2002



### WEST 13th STORE

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Wichita, KS 67203  
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### EAST STORE

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Wichita, KS 67203  
316-687-5451

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316-943-0494

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## Harper Transplant is Growing at Johnson's

Carolyn Utter, *Editor*

For a guy who lived the first 48 years of his life "within a 3-mile radius on farmland in Harper, Kansas" he sure knows a lot of people in Wichita! And although this country boy has been away from the family farm for a few years, he still has a friendly, down-home style that puts everyone at ease.

Wes Hostetler became Johnson's East Store Manager just four months ago, but it seems like every week we hear new stories about Wes running into someone he knows. There were the teachers from Manhattan High School who were attending the Wichita Garden Show ... after talking with Wes they discovered that they knew his daughter from last year when she was a para at the high school. Numerous people from church and previous places of employment find an old friend when they run into Wes at Johnson's East store. And then there's Elmer, a retired gentleman who works part time at Johnson's. Elmer remembers when Wes played basketball at Hesston Community College ... just a few years back!

Wes grew up on a family farm where they grew wheat and alfalfa; and raised dairy cattle. After spending one year away at college, "It was dad's rule that we give college a try," Wes came back to work on the family farm. Eventually, Wes started up his own dairy just one mile north of the Hostetler family farm.

He "liked it but didn't love it" so he sold the dairy farm after 26 years to pursue a career where he could "work with people." After a few years selling farm equipment and then home construction supplies, Wes came to work at Johnson's. He really likes the idea of working at Johnson's because it is a "family operation" much like the family farm that was already in his blood.

When asked about his hobbies, Wes mentioned the 15 years he spent on the Harper/Anthony/Chaparral School Board. His forte was negotiation and he loved "bringing people together."

Wes' faith is "primary in my life." As a member of Central Christian Church, Wes belongs to the men's group, a bible study group, and has participated in several Promise Keeper events. He was in Mile High Stadium the first year that Promise Keepers filled the seats. He was one of 55,000 men in attendance.

Wes is the proud father of five children with two grandchildren on the way. His oldest daughter, Niki, lives in Denver where she does faux painting. She is expecting Wes' second grandbaby in October.

Priscilla and Emilee "the twins" are next in line. Priscilla lives in Wichita where she is a 7th grade health teacher. She's studying for her masters at WSU and is a volunteer counselor at Choices Medical Clinic. Emilee lives in Brownsville, Texas, where she works in the communications department of an oil company. Emilee is due in July.

Wes' son, Nate, lives in Harper and works at an agriculture-related business. Youngest daughter, Sara, attends K-State where she is studying to be a teacher and a coach.

If you already know Wes, stop by Johnson's East to get reacquainted. Otherwise, stop in to say "hi" and introduce yourself to our new Store Manager!



**Wes Hostetler is the new Store Manager at Johnson's East location**