



**FIFTH AND SIXTH graders race down Bird Avenue in the Soap Box Derby held last week.**

*Times staff photo by Casey McCormick*

## McDonald Alumni Gathering

Sunday, May 24, was a very enjoyable day for alumni, family and friends who returned to McDonald to attend the alumni gathering at the grade school gym. It is reported that 200 were in attendance.

The class of 1973 (30 years) was the host class. They had the responsibility of setting up tables on Friday night, setting out "potluck" dishes and, the biggest job of all, cleaning up afterward. Bruce Swihart was the Master of Ceremonies and he did an exceptional job, especially as he was told to do it at the last minute. He called for a representative of each honored class to introduce their class.

Mr. Swihart, speaking for the 30-year class told of the good times they had at the Frosty Mug on Saturday night. Attending were Michelle Reeh, Becky (Jenik) Simminger and husband, Bob, Kim Richardson and wife, Debbie, Dave Hubbard and wife, Sylvia, Janiece (Sabatka) Vohland, Cheryl (Skolout) Wilkinson and husband, Greg, Susie (Kacirek) and husband, R.J. Sabatka, Don Marshall and wife, Carolyn, Dale Smith; Claudia (Gaines) and husband, John Powell and Bruce Swihart.

Eight of the class members were present on Sunday. Bruce also told of all the things that were popular in 1973, such as songs, movies, television, and etc....

The class of 1953 (50 years) was introduced by Art Wilkens. Present were Elsie (Antholz) and husband, Duane Menken of Fort Morgan, Colo., Beverly (Antholz) and husband, Duane Higgins, Carol (Antholz) Mears and husband,

Gene, Jim Montgomery and wife, Mary of Little Rock, Ark.; Art Wilkens and wife, Mae, of Stockton. At the Saturday night get together others present were Marlene (Kashka) Webster of McCook, Neb., and Merrill Bevins. Helen (Enfield) Ritthaler, class of 1954, joined them. Not present were Bob Hatch and Pat Yonkey. The deceased members are Richard Banister, Richard Christensen, Donna Headrick and Phyllis Reneau.

Betty (Pickett) Lewis introduced the 55-year class. Attending were Bob Prideaux, Joan (Hopkins) Tongish, JoAnn (Ritter) Wilford, Lorene (Andrews) Jacobsen and Betty (Pickett) and husband, Vance Lewis.

Ron Bell was spokesman for the class of 1958 (45 years). Present were Charlene (Scott) Kramer and husband, Joe, Verda (Hendrick) Wancura and husband, Stan of Colby, Lynn Howard and wife, Linda of Wiley, Colo., Jane (Reneau) Peters of Erie, Colo., Pete Pickett of North Platte, Neb., and Ron Bell and wife, Cherry.

Avis (Hallagin) Foster introduced her classmates of 1963. Present were Linda Smith Fuller, Cyndi Lankas Deikert, Skip McCain, Elden Pickett, Judy Holub Mann and Avis Hallagin Foster.

The 35-year class were guests of Mike and Carol Sramek on Saturday evening. Attending were Lee and Dica Chipperfield, Marsha Frisbie Tischhauser and husband, Marvin, Janice Rummel and husband, Harvey Leffler, Virginia Haller and husband, Ron Cahoj, May Jane Holub and Cheryl

Hatman and husband, Keith Moreland, Diane Wilkens More and Mike and Carol Sramek.

Margie Hubbard was given recognition for Alumni Association president, Ron Bell for printing the addresses for the newsletter and Kathy Frisbie who does a "super" job on the Newsletter. Traveling the furthest was Rob Beeson who came from Oregon over 1,000 miles away!

Shayla Hubbard drew the names for door prizes. Winners were Hal Antholz, Florence Antholz, Janice Knapp, Becky Antholz, Brenda Loker, Ron Bell, Phyllis Cass, John Phifer, Helen Ritthaler and Lynn Officer.

Everyone was happy to greet Irene (Golt) Kehlbeck, class of 1930. She recently moved from her home in Bird City to the Good Samaritan Home in St. Francis.

Pastor Greg Moyer gave the meal prayer and the class of 30 years led the way to the cafeteria to tables of delicious food. As everyone ate and visited they enjoyed high school annuals of past years which had been loaned by the McDonald Library for table decorations. The McDonald Garden Club had decorated the tables with a patriotic theme and the old annuals.

Before every one parted for their homes they were entertained by Kim Richardson, class of 1974, who sang and played his guitar. He led the group in singing "God Bless America."

The class of 1974, will have a big job to top, or even match, the hospitality of the class of 1973. They will be waiting for you in 2004!!!

## Bird City News

May 13 Edna Roesener, Roy, Karen and Grant Shrader attended the Spring Concert at the McDonald gymnasium in which Colleen Shrader performed.

Saturday, May 17, Walt Roesener and Edna Roesener attended the reception honoring Bill Linin who graduated from Goodland High School. The reception was held at May and Brenda Linin's home.

Friday, May 23, Bethany Ann Stasser of Edgemont, S.D. graduated from the Northwest Kansas Technical College as a medical as-

istant. Bethany is the youngest daughter of Larry and Cathy Atkins and granddaughter of Paul and Edna Roesener. Twenty-two of her family were in attendance. A reception was held after by her grandmother, Edna, and aunt, Jaylene Shrader. A swimming party was enjoyed later by some.

Guests at the home of Paul and Edna Roesener on Wednesday and Thursday were Danelle Stasser and Mike of Chicago, Ill. and Michelle and Oriona Stasser of North Platte.

May 20 was the Elementary Concert at the Cheylin High School with

Grant Shrader performing. It was enjoyed by his family.

May 17 Edna Roesener joined Zina Nelsen and Cindy Meadows of Larned for breakfast and a short visit.

Last Friday supper guests of Maude Elliott were Dick, Gwen, and Mike Boswell, Bill Elliott of Amarillo, Texas and Becky Babcock of Castle Pines, Col. Bill and Becky were here to attend the Bird City Alumni Banquet, Saturday evening, and Memorial Day.

### Graduates

**Colby Community College**  
Three hundred fifty-five degree and certificate candidates at Colby Community College were eligible to participate in the 38th annual commencement ceremony held on Saturday, May 17 at the Colby Community Building.

Those students from Bird City, McDonald and St. Francis who were eligible to participate include:  
Associate of Arts degree: Cynthia Howard, Brandee Mears from McDonald; Nathan Fiala, Jody Gienger, Amy Rieger and Michael Wolters from St. Francis.

Associate in Science degree: Brian Holzwarth, Joshua Moberly, Jared Sowers and Uriah Williams of St. Francis.

Associate in General Studies degree: Luke Linin and Jordan Sowers of Bird City; Niki Burmester of McDonald and Elizabeth Gabel and Shirley Ridens of St. Francis.

One-Year Certificates: Annie Dulany of Bird City  
Dental Hygiene: Ashlee Crabtree



**Wright - Carpenter**

Springs and the late Virgil White.

Grandparents of the groom are Maynard and Lucille Wright, Bird City, Elizabeth Geyer, Marienthal, and the late Elmer Geyer, Jr.

A June 21 wedding at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays is scheduled.

## Wedding planned

Thomas and Beverly Carpenter, Plainville, are proud to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Dana Renee Carpenter, to Dennis Royce Wright, son of Donald and Donna Wright, Bird City.

The prospective bride is a graduate of Plainville High School. She is currently a senior at Fort Hays State University seeking a master degree in accounting.

The prospective groom is a graduate of Cheylin High School. He graduated from Fort Hays State University with a bachelor degree in political science. He is currently employed as a sales and service representative at Alltel of Hays.

Grandparents of the bride are Ralph and May Carpenter of Pottsville, Texas, the late Ethel Hamilton, Ruby White, Sharon

## Alumni Gatherings

*By Casey McCormick*

The Alumni weekend brought a virtual cornucopia of events and reunions to the town of Bird City and McDonald. Folks came from far and near to remember being a Cheylin Cougar, Bird City Cardinal or McDonald Tiger. To recall every happening would be impossible but here are a few.

The Cardinal class of 1973 gathered at the Bird City Golf Course with their families to get in a few swings and laughs on Saturday afternoon while the McDonald '73ers celebrated their 30th reunion on the beer garden at the Frosty Mug in the

evening. Also enjoying the live disc jockey and music was the Tiger class of 1963.

In Bird City, a little over 150 former students met at the Cardinal Alumni Banquet held at the elementary cafeteria. Tables were set for classes going back 30, 40, 50 and 60 years and the 4-H club helped serve and bus tables. After supper many graduates went to Big Ed's to remember years back.

In McDonald, Two Lee's Steak House provided an outdoor barbecue and karaoke. Inside the dining room hosted the Tigers of 1953 while the Cheylin class of '78 cel-

ebrated their 25th in the lounge.

Festivities lasted long into the night as many memories were shared.

Coming home is always special but one alumni said it best. Peggy Pettit Ketzner (class of 1953) drove from Kansas City and said, "Coming from the city to here all the country gets greener and greener the farther you get from the city. You see a place that has changed and that place used to be..."

After a while she said you feel at home and ask the question, "why do people live in the city anyway?"

### Bird City Cardinals

The Bird City Cardinals Alumni Banquet was a great evening of fun, fellowship and delicious food.

Dan Busse, the key speaker, stepped attendees back in time, according to Carol Brubaker who helped organized the event, speaking about earlier businesses in Bird City. Dan's sharing comments brought back other delightful memories of stepping back in time in our community.

Bird City now has a new business, the Bird City Bird Seed on Bird Avenue. Tabetha Ketzner, of Bird City Bird Seed, gave complimentary gifts to the Cardinal "who flew the furthest": Velma Penn Wolf from Nampa, Idaho (class of 1933), the "oldest Cardinal"; Doris (Byers) Lane from Denver, Colo., the "Cardinal couple married the longest": Maynard and Lucille Wright of Bird City who have been together for 64 years, and the "Cardinal who was a graduate teacher": Phyllis (Loper) Clendinning from New Palestine, Ind., who was a Bird City rural school teacher after graduating with the class of 1943.

Cardinals are a North American song bird and they were honored to have Twila (Underwood) Kramer and one of her daughters and her friend sing. They stepped back in time and shared George Gershwin

arrangements and timeless patriotic songs that stirred the soul.

Neal Dorsch, from Mission, Texas (class of 1943) was the Master of Ceremonies. The co-chairmen were Maynard Wright (class of 1933) and Carol Brubaker (class of 1943). The treasurer was Stan Dorsch (class of 1953), secretary was Carol Hilty Gamblin (class of 1963) and the Creativity Committee was headed by Steve and Jan Busse (class of 1973).

It was voted by the Cardinals to seek placement of Bird City Cardinal pictures to be housed in the basement of the Bird City Library.

The co-chairmen for the 2004 Cardinal Banquet are Freda (Ketzner) Beckin and Olga (Shields) Applegate

(class of 1934), Ned and Donna Johnson (class of 1944) and Barbara (Jones) Beougher (class of 1954). The secretary will be John Hendricks (class of 1964), treasurer Steve Carpenter (class of 1974) and the class of 1974 will serve as the Creativity Committee.

The evening came to a close when the honored classes were recognized and then the Barber Shop Quartet stepped back in time to lead the Cardinals in their singing of the school song.

With that the Cardinals "flew" through the school system and remembered when. Steve Carpenter was a wonderful host for the event.

The Cardinals shall return to the "nest" next year.

### Years Ago

**15 years ago - April 1988**

Bob Bressler, Rod Young and Dee Thompson are participating in a history-making event. These men are dismantling the airport beacon and tower in preparation for the move to the new airport, the Earnest Bressler Field, located 1 mile west on Airport Road. In the spring of 1950 the tower and beacon light with rotating base

arrived from southeast Kansas and were placed at the south end of the high school football field and have remained there ever since.

Student Council members Ryan Busse, Travis Scott and Sheila Elijah are among those who helped with a bulletin board display of facts about substance abuse during Drug Awareness Month.

## Best of Luck Cougars!!!

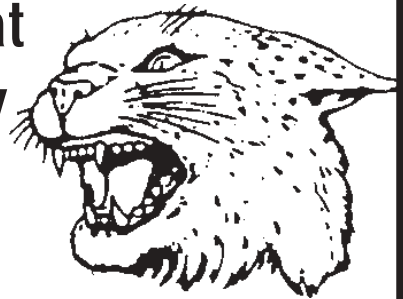


**JILL ZUMBAHLEN**  
Second in  
High Jump  
at 5' 2"

**AMANDA POORE**  
First in  
High Jump  
at 5' 4"

**SARA MOORE**  
Fourth in  
Discus  
at 108' 3"

**2003 State Track Meet at  
Wichita State University  
Friday & Saturday  
May 30 & 31**



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