



Library celebrates 67th birthday

By Casey McCormick

On Nov. 6, the Bird City Library passed a milestone by turning 67-years-old, coming from a humble beginning to what now stands as one of the show pieces of the community.

The original library began in 1937 when a small group of Bird City women decided a public library was needed. It was located in the east portion of the city hall. There was a move to the west side of the building, then back to the east and finally back to the west again where it remained until 2000.

Some of the women who began the library were the wives of local farmers and businessmen. The chairman of the library was Mrs. Fred Brubaker, others involved were Mrs. Joe Green, Mrs. T.J. Book, Mrs. Paul Miller, Mrs. Melvin Wright, Mrs. E.L. Bacon, Mrs. Kenneth Cram and Miss. Laura Grubbs.

Some other women who offered their time were Mrs. Otis True, Mrs. Wayne Duncan and help came from the Future Farmers organization who built the shelves needed to store the books.

A quote from the *Bird City Times* Oct. 27, 1937, issue stated:

"Mrs. E.L. Bacon, Mrs. Book and Miss Grubbs have chosen and ordered the new books and magazines. A few of the new books that will be found on the shelves are: *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell, *North to the Orient* by Anne Morrow Lindberg and *Lost Horizon* by James Hilton. If you have books that you would like to give, call any of the library board members."

Jessie Duncan was the first librarian and she worked as a volunteer for many years. Eventually she was to be paid \$1 whenever the library was open.

With time the library did receive a small levy from the city which allowed the board to hire a regular librarian.

One of the major growth peri-

ods for the library came in 1974. The local PRIDE group worked to increase the size of the facility as well as added on a much needed workroom. The construction project was done by volunteers and the library won a special award at the state PRIDE meeting.

A very good year for the library was 1989. It was named in Walt Eggers' will as a beneficiary.

This generous gift entitled the library to purchase a computer and copy machine. Some new shelving was acquired and additions to the children's program were made. The remainder of the funds were banked with a dream of a new facility someday.

In 1999, the library board seriously took on the responsibility of enlarging the library once again. The board looked at some vacant buildings but did not find anything suitable.

Glen Strait, an architect from Colby, was contacted. Successful grants were written to the Bacon Family Foundation and the Lied Foundation. The community became involved and many donations were made.

A fun night was held with a meal provided by the school and an auction of new and collectibles provided a lot of laughs. The fund raiser brought in enough money to put a basement under part of the new library.

The Security State Bank donated the lots that the new library was to be built on. Paxton Construction of Goodland was given the contract and within three months the new building was completed.

Many people have carried on the caring tradition of bringing books and services to the community through the library. At the time of the new building construction Winnifred Brubaker, Jerry Carmichael and Martin Burton acted as community representatives and the library board was active in general community work.



LIBRARY TRUSTEE STAN DORSCH hangs one of Myra Grimes oil paintings at the Bird City Public Library. The Library celebrated its 67th birthday this month.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

In particular, library trustee Stan Dorsch has given countless hours and a great deal of energy to this quality library.

"It is amazing, the library was constructed for \$197,000. Later another \$20,000 was spent for new shelving and the completion of the cabinetry," Mr. Dorsch said, "All this was done without a bond issue and the library is debt free, the community has been very generous."

In addition to books and magazines, the library has a collection of entertainment video cassettes, audio cassettes and DVD's. A large collection of magazines is also available. The

library is a member of the Northwest Kansas Library System and rotates collections every two months. Book requests are available from interlibrary loan.

The library is open five days a week. Darla Deeds is the librarian and is on the job Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Marcia Hickert and Stan Dorsch volunteer on Monday and Friday, respectively. Also, Darci Kehlbeck is there weekly for the children's story time.

"Yes, the Bird City Public Library has much to be proud of on this, their 67th birthday," Mr. Dorsch said.

Artist's works at library

By Casey McCormick

The Bird City Library is hosting an art exhibit which features the works of local artist Myra Grimes. From now until the first of the year, 16 of Mrs. Grimes' paintings will be displayed at the library.

Her oil paintings include a threshing machine which belonged to Everett Rhores, of Aurora, Colo. Mrs. Grimes captured several local personalities either riding the machine or following behind it.

Her works depict landscape of scenes from northwest Kansas, as well as buildings, portraits and animals.

"It makes me feel good to know that others enjoy what I do," Mrs. Grimes said, "If my paintings are an escape from the everyday rat race, then they do what they are intended to do."

Most of the paintings are for sale and Mrs. Grimes can be contacted at 734-2742.

Bird City Christmas plans are underway

By Casey McCormick

The count down to Christmas is here. And, as in year's past, Bird City will be the place to be on Dec. 18 when the town comes together for Santa Day.

Along with the fun of the gifts and money giveaways, two other events will add to the excitement of Santa Day. The winners of the Christmas lighting contest and Bird City slogan contest will be announced.

Last year the winners of the lighting contest were Neil and Jana Diers, Carol Markley, Ervin and Carol Peters and Sonny and Tammy Horinek. The prizes for this year will be \$75 for first place, \$50 for second and \$25 for third, along with one honorable mention.

Those interested in entering the contest should contact Bonnie Burr (734-2784) or Dee Dorsch (734-2785) by Dec. 16.

The Century II Development Foundation will announce the winner of the Bird City slogan contest

that evening. The winner will be given \$200 in Bird City bucks and entries must be received by Nov. 30. Entries can be mailed to the Bird City Century II Development Foundation, P.O. Box 593, Bird City, Kan., 67731.

Santa Day drew a large crowd in 2003. Over \$4,000 in donations made sure that not one of the kids in attendance went home empty handed. Some of the gift prizes were a television, DVD players and an X-Box. The Grinch made a surprise showing but he was chased off by none other than Santa Claus. St. Nicholas was there to see the children for one last request before Christmas and he had a special sack of toys for one kid. Last year's winner was Kayla Statley. Who will it be this year?

Also, each of the churches in Bird City have Christmas programs and festivities planned. Watch the *Bird City Times* for a schedule of these upcoming events.



NEW FACULTY MEMBER? Alexis Frink has temporary charge of the first grade class at Cheylin. But what could go wrong? She has a good helper in McKenzie Taylor, right.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

'Christmas On Us' to give out \$1,500 at drawing in St. Francis on Dec. 16

By Karen Krien

The Christmas On Us giveaway has started. For the next three weeks, people will be instant winners of \$50 scrip if they have the ticket which matches one of the numbers found in the Christmas On Us pages of advertisements.

The person holding the first place ticket will find themselves with an extra \$1,000. The second place winner will have \$100.

A ticket will be given for each \$10 purchased in participating busi-

nesses. However, it is not necessary to make a purchase to claim a ticket. Those coming to *The Saint Francis Herald* office may each receive one ticket per week.

Each week, participating merchants will be advertising sales and specials in the ads on the Christmas On Us pages so while people are looking for matching numbers, be sure to take a good look at the specials.

Those finding matching numbers will need to bring them into *The*

Herald office to claim their \$50 in scrip and it is necessary to bring tickets in on or before Monday because if the scrip is not given away by Monday evening, that scrip money will be carried over to the next week when another number drawn to be placed in a Christmas On Us ad. A total of \$400 in scrip will be given away during the holiday season and can be spent in one of the following participating businesses:

- Bier's Hometown Store
- Burr Liquor

- Cheyenne Bowl and Dairy King
 - Dusty Farmer
 - Goodell Greenhouse and Floral
 - Krien Pharmacy
 - K-Store
 - Owens True Value
 - Parkhill Restaurant
 - St. Francis Super's
 - Schultz's
 - St. Francis Equity
 - Saint Francis Herald
- The contest will end at noon on Dec. 16 and the grand prize drawing will be held that evening.

