

Old bank building is new again in Bird City

By Norma Martinez
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Many Thresher Show workers and attendees took time off from the Thresher Show on Thursday, July 26 to attend and enjoy delicious cookies, lemonade, iced tea and coffee at the open house and dedication of the newly restored Robertson-Griffin-Bacon Memorial Building.

Bird City Century II Development Foundation purchased the old Security State Bank building in 2011 with assistance from the Bacon Family Foundation. Rodney Young, President of Bird City Century II gave the dedication address. Herb Bacon, the son of E.L. Bacon, and his wife Laura May (along with their daughter) came from Grand Junction, Colo. to attend the open house and Thresher Show. Floyd Jensen and Robert Brubaker, two of the founders of Bird City Century II, were also among the 70 plus in attendance.

The building was named in memory of Edgar & Mabel Robertson and Rosemary Griffin who left large bequests to the Foundation in the early 2000's,

and E.L. Bacon who was the owner of the building when it became the Security State Bank. Construction work was done by JM Construction. Board members and local residents assisted in painting, putting the furniture together and other small finishing items.

The purpose of the Robertson-Griffin-Bacon Memorial Building is to serve as a Business Incubator for newly starting or expanding businesses, by offering an affordable rental rate to assist the occupants in the early 'growing years' of the business.

The Fort Hays State University Kansas Small Business Development Center Outreach Office (KSBDC) was the first occupant in the north building; Megan Horinek is the Business Consultant.

Bird City Historical Association has moved into the northeast office. Through a grant from Bird City Century II, they were able to equip their office with Low Vision Equipment to accommodate members who have limited vision. This low vision equipment consists of: an All-In-One printer,

copier, scanner and fax; a Dell laptop computer, Auxiliary Low Vision key board, and low vision Dell projector.

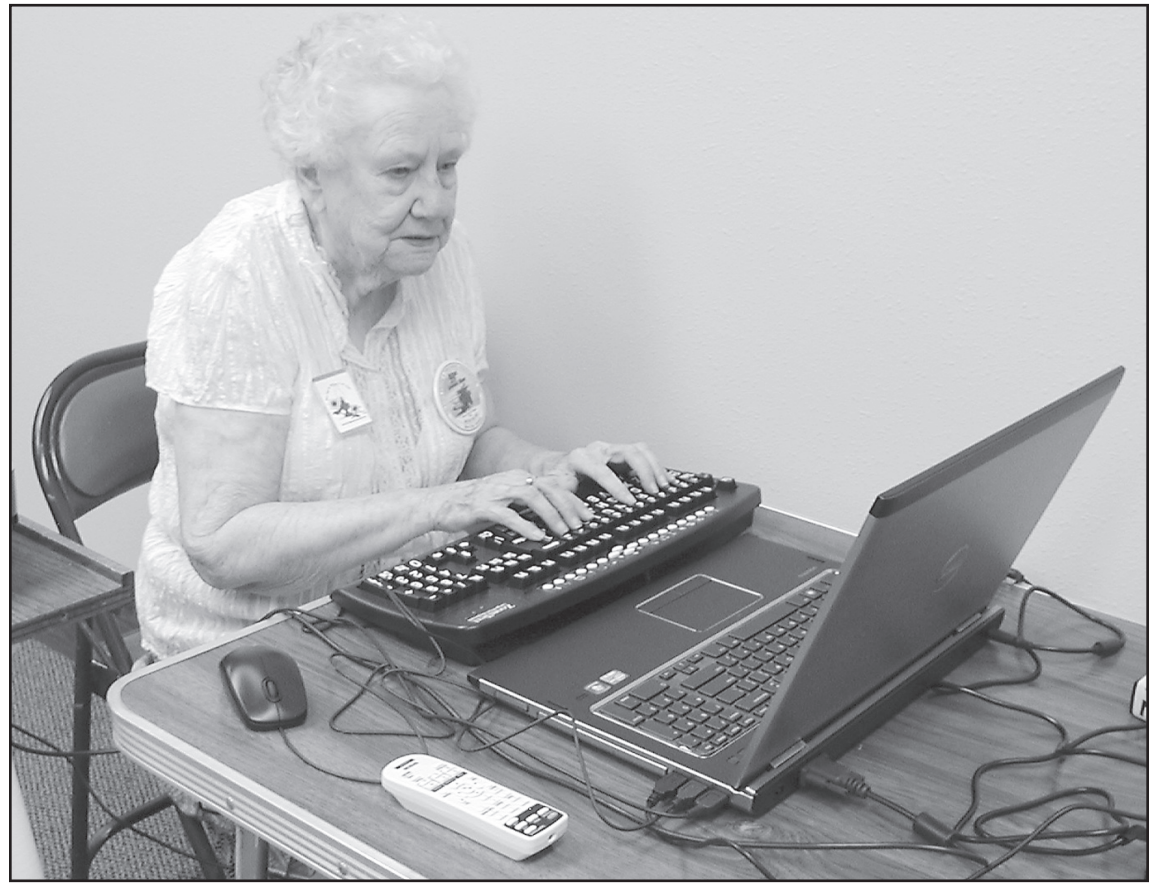
The center offices in the main building are occupied by "Active Balance Chiropractic and Acupuncture Clinic, LLC", owned by Dr. April Green of Atwood who is expanding her current business.

The clinic is set-up for two adjustment rooms. One of these rooms is very unique, as it used to be the bank vault.

Hours of operation for the chiropractic and acupuncture clinic are: Monday and Wednesday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. (Dr. Joe Cox) and Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Dr. Green). Walk-ins welcome, however scheduled appointments come first.

Roxie Neitzel of St. Francis with Neitzel Insurance Service, LLC, will soon be expanding her business and moving into the north building.

Limited space is available. Interested businesses or individuals may contact the Bird City Century II office at 734-2556 for an application or with questions.



DURING THE Robertson-Griffin-Bacon Memorial Building open house event, Dorothy Mast demonstrated the operation of the new Dell low vision laptop computer and keyboard.



DAN STEFFEN, from the Department of Commerce, and Melvin Mast are reading the history of E.L. Bacon's contribution to the Robertson-Griffin-Bacon Memorial Building.



MEGAN HORINEK, the business consultant for Kansas Small Business Development Center Outreach Office, was in her office to answer questions during the Robertson-Griffin-Bacon Open House. The office is sponsored by Fort Hays State University. Times staff photos by Norma Martinez.

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