

Obituaries

Ruby Lucille Wright

Aug. 26, 1918 - Dec. 25, 2012

Ruby Lucille Wright was born Aug. 26, 1918, to Charles LeRoy and Ethel Ruby (Deeds) Query in Stromsburg, Neb. Lucille often said, "That was the year that women got the right to vote." She died at the Cheyenne County Hospital on Dec. 25, 2012.

In 1919, at the age of 6 months, Lucille and her family moved to a farm 14 miles southeast of Bird City. Lucille and her three brothers rode their pony to country grade school at Center School. Twice, the children were caught in blizzards while at school. One time they slept overnight in the school and the other time, they were rescued by the Eggers boys, who tied the children's legs to each other with twine and then followed the fence to the Egger's home. Lucille slept under her first feather tick blanket that night.

Lucille tended to the family's 300 chickens and 50 turkeys as well as helping with the gardening and canning. They frequently made puddings and pies to use up the daily supply of milk from their six milk cows.

Lucille passed the eighth grade graduation test and entered Bird City High School. She stayed at her Grandmother Deeds' home in town during the school year. She had four homemade dresses in her suitcase which was stored under her bed.

In 1936, she graduated high school and went to college summer school so she could teach elementary grades. She then taught at Mount Pleasant Country School No. 30 for four years. Her starting salary was \$50 per month, and she paid \$13 per month in rent and \$2.50 a month to have water carried to the school building.

Lucille married Maynard Wright on May 14, 1939, in the Methodist parsonage. After a honeymoon at Lake Ogallala, they moved into the first of their two farm homes.

The "Dirty 30s" were hard years to begin farming. They had no electricity or refrigeration for the first year of their marriage. A wind charger and a light plant provided both at their second farm home which was 12 miles south of Bird City. Their social life revolved around their family and farm friends. Radio programs provided a link to the outside world. Rationing was implemented during World War II which made it difficult to get supplies for the farm.

They raised three children on the farm. Their son, Gerald Jay, was born Dec. 29, 1941; daughter, Roberta Eileen, followed on Oct. 7, 1944; and Donald Royce was born April 11, 1947.

Lucille was always engaged in her family's activities. She was a lifelong member of the Women's Society of Christian Service in the Bird City Methodist Church. Fellowship with other farmers' wives was provided by the Home Circle Club. She was also a sewing leader in her children's Jayhawk 4-H Club.

Lucille lived her life with vision, passion, determination and independence. She was an equal farming partner with Maynard. They made every farm decision based on their shared belief in the bounty of the earth. She and Maynard enjoyed the fruits of their labor and shouldered the disappointments of farming. She trekked to the elevator to check on

her sisters-in-law, Maxine (Childers) Query and Evelyn (Jones) Query, her son, Gerald and wife, Phyllis (Dankenbring) Wright, her daughter, Eileen, and husband, Jim Moon; and her son, Donald Royce and wife, Donna (Geyer); her grandchildren, Anita (Wright) Diltz and husband, Shane; Dale Wright and wife, Erin (Townsend), and Whitney Moon and wife, Jennifer (Bauersfeld), Heather (Moon) and husband, Michael Leibowitz; Duane Wright; Douglas Wright and wife, Shawna (Reynolds); Dennis Wright and wife, Darlene (Carpenter); and DeAndrea Wright and husband, Dave Krien; as well as 28 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held Dec. 28 at Immanuel United Methodist Church, Bird City, with Bill Duncan officiating. Burial was in the Bird City Cemetery.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Maynard; brothers, Elmer, Lowell and Virgil.

She leaves to mourn her passing,

Joseph B. Hoffert

Feb. 17, 1921 - Dec. 20, 2012

Joseph B. Hoffert of Winona, Kan., died Friday, Dec. 20, 2012, at Winona Hospital at the age of 91. He was born on a farm near Carleton, Neb., on Feb. 17, 1921, to Henry and Katie (Homer) Hoffert.

Joe graduated from high school at the age of 16 and attended Kearney State Teachers College for a year. At 17, he was teaching in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Carleton. After two years at the school and a year at an elementary school in Bruning, Neb., Joe studied for two years at McPherson College in Kansas, where he met his future wife, Lois Metsker.

Upon graduation in 1943, he entered the Navy and was sent to officer's candidate school at Notre Dame University. Upon receiving his commission as a "90 Day Wonder," he married Lois in her home near Quinter, Kan.

They moved to Boston where Joe attended radar school at Harvard. He was assigned to a Destroyer Escort in the Pacific where he served until the end of the war.

Joe and Lois moved to Bird City, Kan., in 1946 where he continued his teaching career at the high school. After two years he was appointed as the school principal, a position he held until 1958. During the summers he earned two master's degrees, in secondary school administration from Colorado State Teachers' College and mathematics from the University of Wyoming. In 1958 Joe and Lois and their four children moved to Des Moines, Iowa where Joe began a 28 year career as a professor of mathematics. He was faculty advisor to the mathematics fraternity Kappa Mu Epsilon, was active in Campus Ministries in Higher Education, and gained a reputation as teacher who could make difficult concepts understandable. He au-

thored a textbook for use in teaching the mathematics of business.

After his retirement in 1986, Joe provided tutoring for young students gifted in mathematics and volunteered as a driver for the Iowa Blood Bank. He also found time to devote to his hobby, antique car restoration. His "legacy project," the 1957 Oldsmobile that belonged to Lois's parents, will forever be a family keepsake.

Joe kept Christ at the center of his life and served the Church of the Brethren at the local, district, and denominational levels. He was a wonderful husband, father, teacher, and friend, a man who set high personal standards and lived by them. Yet he could gracefully acknowledge the failings in others. He had a keen mind and a humble spirit and was a fine example of the term "Servant Leader." He lived life with a sense of gratitude, especially for the love which he shared with Lois. We loved him and we'll miss him greatly.

Joe is survived by his wife of 69 years, Lois, four children, Stan (Susan) of Wausau, Wis., Gordon (Ulrike) of Winona, Patty (Michael) Facius of Minneapolis, and Tim (Nina) of Golden, Colo., five grandchildren: Wesley, Paula, Rhonda (Barton), Jess, and Joe, his brother, Amos Hoffert, of Anita, Iowa, and sister Lois McDaniel of Geneva, Neb.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Ruth Dowdy, and his brothers, John and Booker.

A funeral service will be held Friday, Dec. 28, at 2 p.m. at the Lewiston Church of the Brethren. Interment will be at the Bethel Church of the Brethren Cemetery near Carleton and will take place at a later date. Memorial gifts will benefit the Lewiston Church of the Brethren and Camp Pine Lake, Eldora, Iowa.



CHECKING THE TEMPERATURE of the coyotes at the calling contest were Harold Tygart, center and Brent Rueb, right.

Times staff photo by Tim Burr

Historical association seeks information on farm families

The Bird City Historical Association is seeking historical information of farm and ranch families for the historical booklet, "Stewards of the Land." The purpose of this collection of history is to honor those farm families who have continued to live on and care for the land through generations.

These families can be a relative, but do not have to be direct descendants of the original homesteader. For those who have already received

a phone call or letter, please do not be overwhelmed by the guide list you received.

This list is only to guide you in the collection of information that you wish to share on your farm or ranch family of the original homesteader. As much information as possible of the original homesteader will make your story more complete.

You will be contacted further by letter. We realize this type of collection of information and research

takes a lot of time and effort.

For those who have not been contacted by phone or letter, we would ask that you contact us as we do not wish to miss any eligible farm or ranch. Otherwise, we will be unable to honor your farm or ranch.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at: The Bird City Historical Association, Inc., P. O. Box 8, Bird City, KS 67731 - 785-734-2383.

South of McDonald News By Sandy Binning

Michael and Erin Officer and children and Betty Dewey arrived Dec. 27 at the home of Lynn and Rita Officer. Mark and Marilee Gundlach and children came over also. Kale and Jennifer Regier flew

to Colby Dec. 27 from Fayetteville, Ark., and joined the family at the Officer home.

Saturday morning, Kale Regier, Michael Officer and Mark Gundlach drove Betty Dewey to Colby

so she could fly to WaKeeney to meet family there.

Mark and Leslie Officer and family of Tulsa, Okla., arrived Jan. 1 at the home of Lynn and Rita Officer. Michael and Erin Officer and family left for home Friday morning, and Mark and Leslie and family returned home Saturday. Ratha Lea Loker visited several times during the week.

Kent and Margaret Voorhies were Friday morning callers at the Lynn Officer home.

Merinda Binning and Devon and Trinity of Denver were guests this week of Jerry and Sandy Binning.

Joe and Charlene Kramer were among those who attended the funeral of John Fikan in Colby Monday.

Craig and Diane Cox were weekend guests of Mark and Catina Montgomery and children. They were all Sunday after-church dinner guests of Jonathan and Shea Bax and family of Denver.

McDonald News

Marlene Johnson returned home last week. She has enjoyed visits from family and friends.

Eleanor Swihart returned home New Year's from spending time with Steve and Deb Swihart in Denver and then spending Christmas with Steve and Julia Foster in Craig, Colo.

Gilbert and Janice Anholz helped Hallee Anholz celebrate her third birthday Saturday evening at Hal and Becky Anholz's home.

Sunday guests of Jerry and Betty Knapp for a belated Christmas celebration were Brenda Knapp of Colby and Stan and Becky Purvis and family of Goodland.

Obituary

Madison Faith Sowers

Dec. 6, 2012

Madison Faith Sowers died Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012, after two hours on earth. Madison is survived by her four sisters; Eliana Marie, Adrianna Joy, Kalia Hope, Kenzie Lynn and parents, Joshua and Sara Sowers of Bird City.

Grandparents are Derek and Stacy Crow of Goodland, Rick Baugher of Augusta, Dan and Lori Sowers of Bird City. Great-grandparents are Rod and Diana

Kinkelaar of Wichita, Ronny and Shirley Crow of Wichita, John and Shirley Stewart of Augusta. She is also survived by six aunts, 14 uncles, and five cousins.

Her funeral was held Dec. 10, 2012 at 1 p.m. at Living Water Fellowship, Bird City. Burial followed at Bird City Cemetery.

"There is no footprint too small that it doesn't leave an imprint on this world."

Honor Roll

Those subscribing or renewing their Bird City Times subscription were: Robert Jones, Bella Vista, Ark.; Pat Cooksey, Houston, Texas; Ron Dart, Enders, Neb.; Dr. Kenneth Stout, Benkelman, Neb. Wright Insurance Agency, Bird City; Kent Chapman, Emporia; Kathleen Hickert, Amborn.

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