



GEESE, PELICANS AND DUCKS swam together on the sandpit pond near St. Francis. There were some crusty pieces of ice in some places but this didn't seem to bother the birds. The pond is just out the front door of Gene and Ada Siegfried and they spend many hours watching the birds.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Plain Sense

What should I say

Dear Plain Sense: The elderly mother of a co-worker died a few months ago. This mother was very involved with her family, and her death was a great loss. With the holiday season approaching, those of us in the office sometimes feel uncomfortable talking about parties and family plans, thinking we will make our coworker feel worse. Is it better if we just keep quiet?

The death of a family member can be a difficult time for friends and co-workers. And the holidays bring even more reminders of special times that can no longer be shared. Co-workers usually try to be supportive and caring, but often don't know how to approach or comfort the bereaved person. They may also feel guilty when talking about

holiday plans and fun times.

Most people who have lost a loved one really want to talk about that person, even if the conversation brings tears, and would feel worse if no one talked at all. Reminders of good times, such as holiday events, can be painful but are also a necessary part of the healing process.

Keeping quiet and not saying anything can be as awkward as saying too much. The grieving process is not the same for everyone. What you think is best for them may not actually be the way they are feeling. Let your co-worker know you care and ask about their comfort level in regards to conversations. Invite your co-worker to participate in holiday planning at the

office, but let it be their option as to how much they want to be involved. High Plains Mental Health Center

Contributed by Karen D. Beery, LCPC, Consultation and Education Department

Bowling News

Ladies Nite Out 11/7

Team standings: Dundy Ag 25-15, Troy's Alley Cat 24-15, Wright Carpet 21-19, Jake's 20-20, Jersey Maids 19-21, Cheyenne Bowl 17-22, Great Plains Co-Op 17-23, First National Bank 16-24

High game (scratch): Carol Gamblin 212, Kathy Blecha 184, Ilene O'Leary 181

High series (scratch): Marsha Kechter 508, O'Leary 496, Jenny Wright 489

Wednesday Coffee 10/30

Team standings: Krien Steel Buildings 26-10; Flower Magic 22-14; Cheyenne Bowl 21-15; The 3 G's 19-17; Snyder's Hay Gals 17-19; Windmill Restaurant 17-19; Sam's Electric 13-23; Dairy King 9-27.

High game (scratch): Kathy Snyder 187, Mary Walz 168, Dot Hill 168

High series (scratch): Barb Cobb 461, Pat Confer 455, Shirley Adkinson 443, Hill 443.

Musical planned for Atwood Saturday

The Top Brass now in their 20th season, performs from coast to coast for music lovers of all ages. *In The Mood*, which features the Top Brass will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Atwood High School.

Founded in 1979 by David Coleman and Norlan Bewley, while they were still music majors at the Indiana University School of Music, Top Brass has grown into one of the most original and innovative ensembles in the world today.

Created by the sounds of musicians such as Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman and others, *In The Mood* is a compilation of more than 20 ageless hits. This fast-paced program transports audiences to the era when swing was king and America couldn't get

enough of the big band sound.

Top Brass is brilliant, its music strongly appealing, and it's personality warm and inviting. The group approaches each performance of "In The Mood" with an exuberant style and sound that will make you want to hear more. Top Brass is one of the most refreshing ensembles to come along in years! Admission is at the door or by Western Plains Arts Association season passes.

This is a Heartland Arts Fund program. The Heartland Arts Fund is a collaborative venture of Arts Midwest, Mid-America Arts Alliance, their 15 member state arts agencies, with primary funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, and support from private contributors.

Echoes on the Southwind

By Dorothy Mast

Benjamin Bird with his wife, Amanda (Snail) Bird, and three girls, Lila, Fannie, and Ella had made the transition from plantation life in Kentucky to the bustling life of St. Joseph, Mo., where Benjamin was engaged in the mercantile business. Lila, Fannie and Ella (Nellie) all attended school in St. Joseph, Mo.

In the 1860's the dark clouds of possible war between the north and the south loomed threateningly, over the land. Benjamin with his knowledge of plantation life and the slave issue would have been faced with difficult decisions.

He must have asked himself just where his loyalties really belonged. A decision to leave his wife with small children and a few slaves to operate the mercantile business to support themselves, especially since at that period of time women were expected to remain in the home and care for the children and leave the business world to the men, would have been very difficult.

However, family records tell us that during the Civil War, Benjamin Bird was a member of the Union Intelligence Service and at some point arrested and sent to the Andersonville Confederate Prison in Georgia. Family records were not found of a personal account of Benjamin's confinement in prison or his eventual release. However, the Encyclopedia Americana, Volume one, page 662, gives us a brief look at the Andersonville prison history.

"A Confederate stockade for Union enlisted men located at Andersonville, Ga., was established in Nov. of 1863

and in use from Feb. 1864, during which time it had a total of 49,485 prisoners, the largest number at one time being 33,006. It was originally built to accommodate 10,000 men. It had an inadequate hospital and was without barracks, being an open enclosure of 27 acres with 15 to 20 foot walls of pine logs.

Overcrowding, disease, impure water, unsanitary conditions and exposure added to the shortage of food and medicine, resulted in an appalling death rate totaling more than 13,700 in the thirteen months the prison was in use.

Conditions were investigated by a medical commission appointed by the Confederate War Department in the late spring of 1864 and the removal of the greater number of the prisoners was recommended. By October, all but about 4,000 had been transferred to prisons at Florence, S.C., and Millen, Ga., where better conditions were maintained. The Andersonville prison superintendent, a Swiss Captain, Henry Werz, was charged with cruelty and mismanagement, was tried by a United States Military court and was hanged. The cemetery where the prison dead was buried comprising 27 acres and 13,706 graves is now a National cemetery. The prison site, with adjoining land bringing it now to 84 acres has been made into a National Park.

As the story continues into the life of Benjamin Bird and his connection to the town of Bird City, Kan., we begin to respect the courage and endurance of those early pioneers.

Next month-The lure of the West.

Herald Happenings:

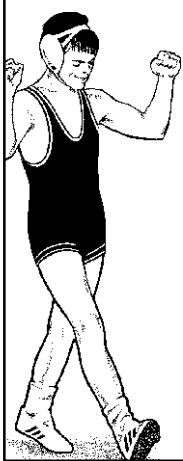
Christmas Tab

This supplement will be filled with Christmas Cheer: Letters to Santa, Recipes and Memories. The advertising is reserved for Christmas well wishes!



Winter Sports Tab

This supplement will feature St. Francis and Bird City Jr. High and High School Basketball players, Wrestlers and Cheerleaders!



The Saint Francis Herald
P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

— and —
Bird City Times

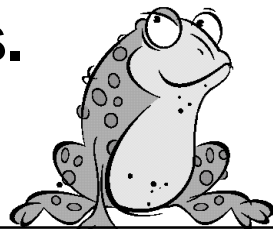
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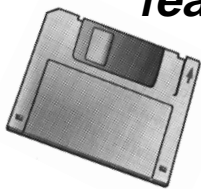
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