

# Obituaries

## Alvin Henry Hempeler

May 11, 1906 - June 13, 2005

Alvin Henry Hempeler was born to Louis Hempeler and Sophie Marie (Antholz) Hempeler in Cook, Neb., on May 11, 1906. He died June 13 at the age of 99 years, one month and two days.

During his early years, the family lived in northern Minnesota and Iowa. Alvin completed the eighth grade in Keosauqua, Iowa, in 1920. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to the rural Bird City, Kan., area.

Alvin was confirmed March 1921, at St. John Lutheran Church by Reverend Louis Sittler.

At about age 14, Alvin took over the majority of the farm work while his father did carpentry work. He continued farming on the family farm where he lived with his sister, Lottie, until 1981.

At that time the brother and sister moved into a home in Bird City.

Alvin was a faithful member of St. John Lutheran Church. He attended church with Lottie even after his hearing deteriorated to the point that he could not hear the service.

Alvin was a member of the Tri-State Antique Engine Association and donated one of his tractors, a Minneapolis Moline - U to the association. Alvin was inventive, active, and enjoyed life with a good sense of humor. He was an avid reader and patronized the church library as well as the Bird City Library.

In July 2003, ill health caused Alvin and Lottie to move to the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis where he died.

Alvin was preceded in death by his parents. He leaves his sister, Lottie, and some cousins to mounm his passing.

Funeral services were held June 16, at St. John Lutheran Church, Bird City, with Reverend Ron Roberts officiating.

Casket bearers were Dan Busse, Charles Coleman, Stan Dorsch, Norman Dorsch, Gilbert Antholz, Steve Busse.

Interment was in the Bird City Cemetery.

Arrangements by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

## Marsha Lin Lozano

February 6, 1975 - June 5, 2005

Marsha Lin Lozano, 30, of Cedar City, Utah, died at her home on Sunday, June 5, 2005. She was born in Saint Francis, Kan., Feb. 6, 1975, to Donnie and Patti (Hanes) Voeller. She worked at the Cheyenne County Hospital as a certified nurses aide for a few years before moving on.

Marsha moved to Denver, Colo., in 1996 where she worked as a nanny and eventually met her husband. She married Gerald Scott Lozano on June 7, 1997, in Thornton, Colo. Together, they raised two children, Jaycee Lynn

and Jona Scott.

Marsha was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She and her husband were solemnized on June 20, 1998. Her greatest passion in life was to serve Our Heavenly Father and love all the babies in the world she could get her hands on. She loved baking and serving others, crocheting, taking in all different sizes of stray animals and playing with her own two children. Both of her children were born prematurely and her nurturing soul helped them to grow strong and healthy. She will be greatly missed by all those who knew her.

She is survived by her husband: Gerald, two children: Jaycee and Jona, Cedar City; mother: Patti Voeller; brother: Dan Blair, his wife, Kristina, a niece, Andrea, a nephew, Aaron; and grandparents; Kenneth and Ellen Voeller, all of Saint Francis.

She was preceded in death by her father, Donnie Voeller; sister; Audrea Ann Voeller; and grandparents, John and Dolly Hanes.

Funeral services were held on Friday, June 10, at the Cedar Stake Center in Cedar City. Interment was at the Cedar City Cemetery following the services.

## Fannie Georgina David Nelson

May 1, 1919 - June 14, 2005

Fannie Georgina David Nelson, the oldest daughter of Rubie Inez Mears and George Arthur David, was born on May 1, 1919, in Cheyenne County, Kan., and died on June 14, 2005, at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis at the age of 86 years.

Fannie attended school in Cheyenne County and graduated from high school in McDonald. After graduation, she went to Denver where she worked in several restaurants. In March of 1955, she married Omer A. Nelson, and four children were born to this union: Patricia Ann, James David, Carol Renee and George Edwin.

The family lived in Colorado, moved to Benkelman, Neb., and back to Colorado. In 1962, they moved to McDonald and then to Benkelman where she resided working in various restaurants until moving to St. Francis in the mid 1990s. After failing health, she moved to the Good Samaritan Village and lived there until her death.

One of Fannie's greatest joys were her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was there for many of their births, and if not, was there shortly after. If there was an event that the grandkids were involved in, she would be there watching and cheering them on.

She was a member of the Stitch and Chat Extension Club and the Sunflower Quilting Club. Fannie loved to quilt, embroidery and to sing. Even after Alzheimer's took its toll, she

could still remember the words to every song.

Fannie attended church at the Evergreen United Brethren Church, the Federated Church in McDonald and the Baptist Church in Benkelman.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; her brothers, Russell, Donald and Raymond; sister, Norma; sister-in-law, Alice David; and brothers-in-law, Blaine Lamb and Gene Stamm.

She is survived by her children: Pat and Bradley of St. Francis; Jim of McCook, Neb.; Carol of Olathe; and George of Santa Barbara, Calif.; grandchildren, Nikki Rose and Dale Rose of Olathe; David and Dana Rose of St. Francis; Shawn Nelson and Sara Nelson of McCook; Jason Stevens of Lincoln, Neb.; Tami and Derrick Seib of Fort Rucker, Ala.; Michael Confer and fiancé, Ashlea Hazen of Ottawa; Dustin Confer of Olathe; Tristan Nelson and Sunnie Nelson of Nevada, Iowa; great-grandchildren, Dillan Nelson, Natalie Sieb, Logan Confer and baby Rose, expected in October; sister, Inez Stamm of Benkelman and a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral service was held June 17, at the Federated Church of McDonald with the Reverend Gregory Moyer officiating. Organist was Phyllis Wingfield, Eulogist was Eleanor Swihart. Congregational hymns were *The Old Rugged Cross* and *In The Garden*.

Casket bearers were Mike David, Stan Jones, Kip Wiese, Dave Roberson, Kevin Berens and Charles Nipps.

Honorary pallbearers were grandchildren, Tami Seib, Michael Confer, Dustin Confer, Nikki Rose, Dale Rose, David Rose, Sunnie Nelson, Shawn Nelson, Sarah Nelson and Tristan Nelson.

Interment was in Grace Cemetery at McDonald.

## Dr. Ernest Richard Cram,

April 1, 1924 - June 19, 2005

Dr. Ernest Richard (Dick) Cram, M.D., age 81, of St. Francis, Kan., died at the Cheyenne County Hospital on Father's Day, June 19, 2005. A celebration of his life will be held on Wednesday, June 22, at 2 p.m. at the Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis.

Dr. Cram was born April 1, 1924, in St. Francis, to Ole Robert and Elizabeth Mary (Ringo) Cram. He attended the St. Francis community schools; Kansas State University 1942-43; University of New Mexico, pre-meteorology certificate 1943; University of Kansas, bachelor of arts, pre-medicine 1946-49; Univer-

sity of Kansas, doctor of medicine 1948-52; California Institute of Technology, Master of Science, meteorology 1952; Medical Rotating Internship, Air Force Lieutenant, Fitzsimmons Army Hospital, Denver 1952-53.

His service in the armed forces included meteorologist and Lieutenant, Army Air Corps Reserves 1943-1946. After finishing medical school, here-enlisted as a physician, Lieutenant, Air Force Reserves, Westover Air Force Base, Chicopee Falls, Mass., 1953-54.

Dr. Cram married Bonnie Jean Waters on Aug. 29, 1948, and they have five children: Richard Lloyd; Ione Beth Slattery; Claudia Kay Bunker; Ole Robert, III; and Adele Elizabeth DeGood. There was a 20-year span between their oldest and youngest child.

Activities included flying his airplane, reading, golf, violin playing, singing, dramatic and comedic acting, writing and genealogy. He was a patron of the arts.

Dr. Cram practiced private family medicine in St. Francis, from 1954 - 1992. During these years he served as county coroner 1954 - 92; Cheyenne County Health Officer 1970 - 1992; Emergency Medical Technician Instructor 1980 - 1992; Cheyenne County Ambulance Supervisor 1991 - 1992; Cheyenne County Medical Staff President and Chief of Staff several variable terms 1955 - 1992; member Kansas Academy of Family Practice and American Academy of Family Practice; member Flying Physicians Association; member St. Francis High School and District School Board 1955 - 1975; president, St. Francis Rotary Club; Chamber of Commerce life member and president; Board of High Plains Mental Health Center, Hays, KS; member of the First Christian Church; Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Committeeman 1954-1989; BSA Neighborhood Commissioner of Buffalo Bill District; BSA Buffalo Bill District Chairman 1958 - 1960; and Scoutmaster Troop 120 1964-1965.

Dr. Cram received the award of Eagle Scout in 1942. The Coronado Area Council awarded Dr. Cram the Silver Beaver certificate in 1965 and the Wood Badge certificate in 1967.

Dr. Cram was a private pilot with a single engine airplane, commercial and instrument ratings. He logged 3341 hours and was owner of a Beechcraft Sierra. He was active in the Civil Air Patrol as a captain and as a medical officer. He was member of Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Experimental Aircraft Association Senior Federal Aviation Medical Examiner; Accident Investigator; Director of Chey-

enne County State Bank, St. Francis, 1955-94; Republican Party Precinct Committeeman and District State Delegate; and the Western Plains Arts Association of Kansas.

As a young violinist, he played in the University of Kansas Orchestra and later in Pride of the Prairie Orchestra where he rehearsed weekly in Colby. Dr. Cram enjoyed acting and performed in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Hello Dolly*, *Music Man*, *Dust on the Sunflowers*, and *The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker*.

He wrote his own autobiography entitled "Sainty's Dick Cram" in 1994 during his retirement. A copy of the book may be found in the St. Francis Library and the Cheyenne County Museum.

Dr. Cram and his wife Bonnie presented a number of programs written by, Bonnie. The two of them performed these programs in their hometown of St. Francis as well as surrounding communities. These programs included singing, telling family stories, and humorous dramas. They also performed violin and voice duets.

Bonnie and "Doc" loved flying their airplane, "Love Baby" and one of their trips included flying to the Caribbean Islands with 31 other doctors. They were the only ones flying a single engine plane. The journey from St. Francis to St. Thomas of the Caribbean Islands was 50 hours of flying time, round trip. After selling his airplane, golfing with Bonnie became his passion. Bonnie and Dr. Cram (Dick) loved to travel and took many wonderful family trips as well as attending medical conferences which added "zest" to living in St. Francis.

Dr. Cram was a great family man and he loved St. Francis. He delivered approximately 1,000 babies in his career, including his youngest children Ole and Adele as well as Adele's husband, Darris DeGood. Dr. Cram also had the privilege of delivering Julian Bunker, his first grandson, on his own birthday, April 1.

When Dr. Cram chose to practice medicine in St. Francis, there were five other family physicians practicing in Cheyenne County. However, Dr. Cram said, "I think if I practice good medicine, we

can live wherever we want to live and I want to live in St. Francis."

His philosophy as a doctor was summed up by a quote from his book "I have always tried to serve as I would like to be served myself and have always been negative toward unnecessary doctoring."

His family would like to share a few of his favorite quotes which he shared frequently as a husband, doctor and father. These included, "We can't turn back the clock.," "You're learning," "Everything in moderation.," "Keep it simple.," "If in doubt, say nothing.," "This too shall pass.," "The work of the world must go on.," and "Support your local businesses."

He will be dearly missed by his family and always remembered as a devoted father, husband, doctor, friend, brother and grandfather. He is survived by his beloved wife of almost 57 years Bonnie Jean (Waters) Cram; son, Richard Lloyd Cram, Topeka, and granddaughter, Megan; daughter, Ione Beth Slattery and husband, Mike, Hays; daughter, Claudia Kay Bunker and grandsons, Julian and Joel, Loveland, Colo.; son, Ole Robert Cram III, wife, Betsy, and granddaughters, Shannon, Grace and Hope, Riverside, Calif.; daughter, Adele Elizabeth DeGood and husband, Darris and granddaughter, Paige, Colby; and his brother, James (Jim) Jacob and wife, Josephine (Firkins) Cram, Denver; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Dr. Cram was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Dr. Ole Robert Cram II.

Memorials may be made to the Cheyenne County Hospital, St. Francis Good Samaritan Village, St. Francis First Christian Church, Troop 120 Boy Scouts, Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Technicians and St. Francis Riverside Recreation.

Funeral services were held June 22, at the Peace Lutheran Church, St. Francis with Pastor Tony Christians officiating.

Casket bearers were Fort Riley Honor Guard.

Honorary casket bearers were Richard Lloyd Cram, Ole Robert Cram III, Mike Andrew Slattery, Darris Dean DeGood, Julian Robert Bunker, Joel Michael Bunker.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery.

## Students Graduate

### Fort Hays State University

Fort Hays State University Registrar Joey Linn recently released the names of more than 670 students who completed requirements for bachelor and associate degrees during the 2005 spring semester.

Among those from Cheyenne County receiving degrees were:

Adelheit Straub, bachelor of sci-

ence in elementary education.

Brock McAttee, bachelor of science in technology studies.

Kiedra Riedel, bachelor of science in speech-language pathology.

Robert Rainbolt, bachelor of art in health promotion in physical education department.

Pamela B. Zweygardt, bachelor of science in elementary education.

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