



NEW OWNERS - Robert and Sherry Cherry check out their inventory at Big Ed's.

Restaurant has new owners; still serving the same steaks

By Casey McCormick
Big Ed's Steakhouse in Bird City is continuing its tradition of bringing some of the best steaks in the state to its tables. However, the operation is being carried on by new owners, Robert and Sherry Cherry.

"It has a pretty neat history," Mr. Cherry said, "but it is still Big Ed's Steakhouse."

Big Ed's started 21 years ago when Ed Thomas purchased the building and began serving steaks in what was an old pool hall. The next owner was Richard Upchurch, who continued to improve Big Ed's for the last 14 years.

Mr. Cherry first came to this area in the mid 1990s to hunt and discovered the landmark restaurant. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cherry are avid hunters and they kept making trips to northwest Kansas and southwest Nebraska.

"We fell in love with the rural area," said Mrs. Cherry.

In June of 2004 the Cherrys decided to retire from their Denver

careers. Mr. Cherry sold his custom woodworking shop and Mrs. Cherry left her job as a manager for a communications company.

"Our five-year-plan was to buy a sailboat and take off to see the world," Mrs. Cherry said.

After a little over a year they had sailed over much of the Gulf Coast, Florida Keys and the Bahamas. They took along a favorite companion, Ernie, Mr. Cherry's black Lab hunting dog.

The "five-year-plan" changed when their daughter, Shayla, needed their help with her swimming pool business in southwest Florida. But the Cherrys longed for the rural lifestyle of Kansas and Nebraska.

A friend, Brent Flanders, let them know that Faye Cooper's farm, on the northern edge of Sherman County, was available.

When they retired, the Cherrys had stored some of their belongings with Mr. Upchurch at the Bird City Storage. Mr. Cherry asked Mr. Upchurch if any businesses were

for sale in the area.

"I'm ready to sell Big Ed's," Mr. Upchurch said.

Although the Cherrys were a little hesitant about taking over the business, they soon were glad they did.

"It's been better than we expected," said Mrs. Cherry. "It's the people here that make the difference. They are friendly and make you feel welcome."

The couple knew they had a good thing when they took over Big Ed's and they want customers to know that the quality and service will remain the same.

"It's the same Big Ed's," Mr. Cherry said. "It's the same seasoning, same meat, same staff... nothing has changed."

There is one change. Big Ed's now offers a pork tenderloin sandwich along with a full selection of steaks.

Big Ed's is located on Bressler Ave. in Bird City. It is open Monday through Saturday, with the grill operating from 5 to 10 p.m. The phone number is 785-734-2475.

Many relatives and friends attend 90th birthday party

Meta (Bader) Dankenbring of Bird City, was born March 6, 1917, in her parents rural country sod house. In 2007, her four children, Phyllis Wright (Gerald), Bird City, Milferd (Kathy), Hutchinson, Keith (Cinda) and Victor both of St. Francis, decided to honor their mother with a party for her birthday, to be held Saturday, March 10. She began receiving cards in late February, which had continued through the month of March, as well as receiving numerous telephone greetings from friends and relatives who were not able to come to her party.

On Friday, March 9, relatives (other than her own children) began arriving from out of town. There were: great-niece, Vicki Gardner Brown, San Jose, Calif., her youngest brother, Paul (Rita) Bader, Tim (Kathy) Bader, Bethany and Quentin, all of Valentine, Neb., Pastor Randy (Carolyn) Bader, and Katrina, Norfolk, Neb. They all roomed at a motel in St. Francis. Late that evening, Meta and her children and their spouses, Kale Dankenbring, Maricopa, Ariz., and Vicki (Gardner) Brown, San Jose, Calif., dined at Big Ed's after decorating the Senior Center for the party. Meta was treated by the owner to a glass of wine in honor of her birthday.

Saturday noon dinner prepared by the family, was served after singing the table prayer, to those mentioned above and the following: Meta, the honored guest, her brother Robert (Delsie) Bader, Sutton, Neb., Myron (Rachel Bader) Hinrikus, Prosser, Neb., Wayne (Gail Ham) Mathews, Merlin (Connie Yonkey) Johnson all of Lincoln, Neb., Art, Jr. (Betty) Yonkey, Hickman, Neb., Delmar (Stevie) Bader, Oberlin, Delvin (Shirley) Bader, Mariah, Garrett, and Danelle, Hays, Kendall (Angie Bader) Fisher, Kenzie, Kortnie, Keatra, Kaitlyn, McCook, Neb., Reg Stegman, Andrea, Paige Lucas, Spearville, Eddie Dankenbring Jr., Logan, Colleen

(Jones) Rohr, Billy (Jeanette) Jones, all of Goodland, Gerald Baney, Benkelman, Neb., Kaye (Shield Dankenbring) Bauman, St. Francis, Jason (Jen Dankenbring) Padgett, Denver, Colo. Kale Dankenbring, Maricopa, Ariz., Eric (Teresa Dankenbring) Lipsey, Denver, Colo., Josh Kabureck, Chelsi Dankenbring, Macye Ann and Deija Marie, Newton, Cassandra Dankenbring, St. Francis, Joe Schield and friend Lee, Summit, Mo., and Tim (Jenny) Stimbert, St. Francis.

The dining tables were covered in white and decorated with rose bowls decorated in lavender and green, made by Donna Wright, Bird City.

Open house was held from 2 to 4 p.m. serving from a lovely white-lace covered tea table were Carol Peters, Bird City, Bethel Goltl, McDonald, friends of Meta's and nieces, Connie Johnson of Lincoln, Neb. and Rachel Hinrikus, Prosser, Neb. The beautiful and delicious cakes were baked by Lila Howard, McDonald, and Julie Bock, Bird City.

Meta's children presented her with a corsage of four pink baby roses to represent her four children and a white rose for their father, her husband Vernon (deceased 2001). Greenery and white baby's breath completed the corsage.

She greeted her guests as they entered and they registered at the guest book attended by Donna Wright (friend of Meta, sister-in-law of Phyllis). The reception table was replenished by Cinda and Kathy Dankenbring and Phyllis Wright. Edna Roesener, McDonald, and Donna Jensen, Bird City (also friends of Meta's) tended



Dankenbring

to the kitchen duties for the reception including coffee, punch, nuts and mints (made by Phyllis, Meta, and Cinda).

Those who attended also wrote "Memories for Meta" on little scrolls made by her granddaughter, Jen Padgett. They were put into a little trunk for her to enjoy reading later. She also received many cards at the party and several gifts, besides the gift of everyone's presence to make her day very special.

Meta's family is also about "making homemade music," so at 3 p.m. her brothers with their guitars, her nephew Art Yonkey, J with his guitar, and her son Milferd with his accordion played and sang many old familiar songs, Keith and Victor also joined in the singing. There were many in attendance from the local and surrounding areas as well as those mentioned at the noon meal.

At 4 p.m. Keith, on behalf of Meta and her families extended "thanks" for attending and invited everyone back in 10 years when Meta will be 100 years young.

At 6 p.m. the families remaining overnight enjoyed supper after praying the Lord's Prayer together, after which they played and sang again.

Betty Yonkey was surprised with a birthday cake of her own to celebrate her March 10 birthday as well.

All departed after a clean up with the open invitation from the "90 years young lady" to be at her house after church for Sunday dinner, prepared by her of course. (This was the weekend the clocks sprang forward too).

There were nine who attended church with Meta at St. John Lutheran. There were 20 hungry relatives to enjoy a delicious meal again after praying the Lord's Prayer together. (Heritage Corner Cafe pan fried chicken was part of the menu along with Meta's German dishes and special ham from Hometown Market).

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SFCHS HONOR ROLL

THIRD NINE WEEKS ♦ 2006-2007

Superintendent's Honor Roll - Grade point avg. above 3.75

<p>SENIORS</p> <p>MINDY COOPER CAMERON FIALA SARAH GEISE AMANDA NIPPS RUSSELL ROGERS ADRIENNE SWIHART ALECIA ZIMBELMAN</p> <p>JUNIORS</p> <p>HEATHER HNZIDL KATHERINE JONES YEA HEE JUNG</p>	<p>HOLLY KELLER DARA LOYD KATLIN MARIN SARA MILLER CORBIN SHERLOCK GAVIN SMULL TERI WALTERS LAUREN ZWEYGARDT</p> <p>SOPHOMORE</p> <p>CJ DOUTHIT ELIZABETH GIENGER ANDREA HOLZWARTH</p>	<p>CARA HUNT TRENT KINEN JONI PEVLER SAM SOWERS KIM VOELLER SHAWN WARREN</p> <p>FRESHMEN</p> <p>BROOKLYN HNZIDL TRENT RAILE</p> <p>EIGHTH</p> <p>BRENDAN FINLEY MIKAELA GRACE</p>	<p>CHRISTINA HILT SHAYLA HILT BROOKS HOBROCK ALYSON MARIN AUBREE SCHLEPP CODY SHERLOCK</p> <p>SEVENTH</p> <p>ROSS NICKLOS ISAAC SCHILTZ LOGAN WHITMORE</p>
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High Honor Roll - Grade point avg. 3.33 to 3.74

<p>SENIORS</p> <p>MELISSA BURTON TYLER FINLEY DANIELLE FLEMMING MAC FREWEN JORDAN GIENGER SHAINA GOHL TRAVIS HAVEL AMY HILT BENJAMIN KILLINGSWORTH BRITANNY LUCAS MEGAN RICE</p>	<p>LAUREN ROSS BRANDON RUEB JANELLE ZWEYGARDT</p> <p>JUNIORS</p> <p>ANDREA BORN KATTIE FORD CHANCE HOBROCK COURTNEY PARKS</p> <p>SOPHOMORES</p> <p>SIDNEE CRABTREE SCOTT FORD MEGAN GILLILAND</p>	<p>JESSE JR. PACHECO TARYN RICHARD JACOB RIEDEL MATT WHITMORE</p> <p>FRESHMEN</p> <p>MARVIN MILLER DALE NORTHRUP EDGAR PACHECO MATT RAILE AMBER SMULL</p>	<p>DAVID STEPHENS DREW ZWEYGARDT</p> <p>EIGHTH</p> <p>RYAN DRAPER GARRETT FIGGINS JODIE HILT CODY KILLINGSWORTH BRETT LAMPE</p> <p>SEVENTH</p> <p>ALLISON GRICE ASHLYNN LAMBERT CHRISTINA SCHOENROGGE</p>
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Honor Roll - Grade point avg. 3.0

<p>SENIORS</p> <p>BRADY FREWEN AJ McATEE JOEL McATEE ZACHERY MILLS MIRANDA TEETERS LEVI WEEDEN</p> <p>JUNIORS</p>	<p>TED CRABTREE CASSANDRA DANKENBRING JENICE HARTMAN</p> <p>SOPHOMORE</p> <p>SARAH GUTHMILLER CANDICE WIESE ETHAN ZWEYGARDT</p> <p>FRESHMEN</p>	<p>GRADY BRUNK BENJAMIN NEITZEL TROY PERRY TAYLOR SPIKE KAYCEE WILLIAMS</p> <p>EIGHTH</p> <p>TYE GILLILAND ADAM GUTHMILLER</p>	<p>TYLER LAUER ALYSSA LEE</p> <p>SEVENTH</p> <p>JONATHAN BUTLER KAITLIN FIGGINS CAITLIN NORTHRUP BROCK ZWEYGARDT TY ZWEYGARDT</p>
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