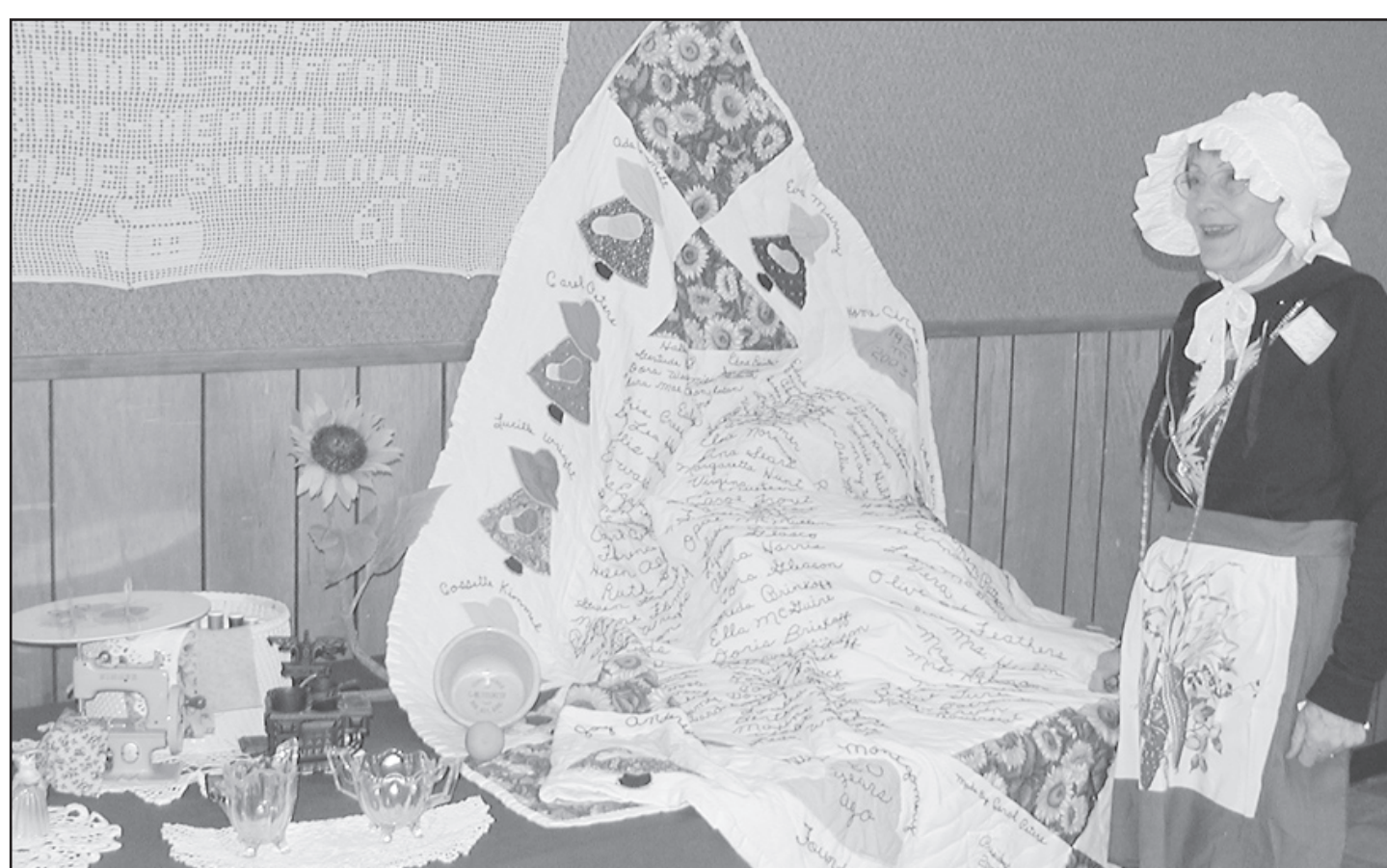


Kansas Day celebration held in Bird City



ST. FRANCIS SINGERS LEFT TO RIGHT, Shirley Ochsner, Ruth Milliken, Janet Carman, Sondra Bracelin, Beth Maifeld, Raedell Winston, Melissa Hoyes, Ron Maifeld and Stan Carman perform a variety of songs during the Kansas Day Celebration held in Bird City.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider



LINDA CARROLL (top right) stands in front of the Home Circle Club display; clockwise, Neil McCumber and Sondra Bracelin lead the group in the Virginia Reel dance; Ron Maifeld plays an old German tune on his accordion; Mariah Beikman looks like she just walked off the prairie in her bonnet as she narrates the "A History Detective Finds Bird City;" Helene Landenberger recites a poem she wrote named, "Ben Bird 1882"

Times staff photos by Linda Schneider



Annual celebration creates lots of fun and entertainment

By Linda Schneider
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Last Friday, Bird City hosted the 81st annual Kansas Day Celebration in the American Legion hall. It was also announced by Ken Krien, chairperson for Bird City's 125-year birthday celebration, to be the official festivities kick-off leading up to the June 12 event.

On display were the Bird City 125-year commemoratives—the belt buckles, lapel pins, rifle, and quilt top. In addition, guests were able to purchase the belt buckles and fun buttons such as the Brother of the Brush that allowed the person to grow a beard and shaving permits. All items can now be purchased at the Bird City Senior Center on Mondays.

The Home Circle Club quilt made by Carol Waters in 2002 was displayed. The quilt was to commemorate the 80 years of the Home Circle Club with members

names. And in the display were many items provided by Carol Peters, such as a miniature cast iron stove/oven. Both have been members of the Home Circle Club for over 10 years.

The event began with prayer by Pastor Becky Davison of the Bird City United Methodist Church and followed by potluck lunch provided by residents from the surrounding area.

During lunch, music was provided by Randy Smestad, Tema Trumbo and Ted Trumbo. They played a variety of patriotic as well as contemporary tunes.

The flag colors were presented by Bird City Boy Scout Troop 119, Jacob Brubaker, Ty Carmichael, Grant Shrader and Casey Vandike. In addition, along with their troop leader, Gary Brubaker, they helped with guests that needed any assistance.

Janet Carman, secretary, was

the announcer throughout the program. After welcoming the guest to the 81st Annual Kansas Day Celebration, she began the program with a dramatization of how Bird City got its name.

The production "A History Detective Finds Bird City," was researched and written by Dorothy Mast, with the assistance of Rosemary Powell. The St. Francis seventh grade English class performed the play.

The play was also a part of the Bird City 125-year birthday celebration official kick-off. The presentation was about a present-day detective, Miss Jess Dubious, played by Justice Wiley, using a time-machine to go back in time to witness the plating of Bird City.

The cast of characters were played by, Mariah Beikman, narrator, dressed in prairie dress and bonnet; Aby Fernandez, scientist Kent Proovit; Dallas Reed, Benja-

min Bird; Tanner Gilliland, Dennis Cave; Jon Hoard, A. L. Burr; Mckayla Taylor, Max Rich; Ashlee Orth, E. R. Pendarvis; Cade Bracelin, Hilan B. Ketcham; Kyler Zweygardt, W. H. Demmick; Matt Howl, surveyor; and Brianna Cooks, Charles Kerndt.

Backstage help was provided by seventh graders Kyla Bandel, Ian Schmidt, Tristan Archer, Nicky Easter, Valerie Wurm, and Matt Howell. Student director was Echo Jones, and teacher/director Marti Schlittenhardt.

For more entertainment, attendees listened to a poem recital called "Ben Bird 1882" by Helene Landenberger. The St. Francis singers, under the direction of Louanne Isernhagen, sang many old German songs and Dr. Ron Maifeld accompanied on his accordion. There was a violin solo by Mrs. Isernhagen and a guitar solo by Cornelia Paulsen.

Mrs. Carman presided the elections for 2011 Kansas Day, Kathy Loop and Phyllis Wright are co-chair presidents; Helene Landenberger, treasurer; and Janet Carman, secretary. She added that 2011 will be the 150th year of statehood for Kansas. During the program, Mrs. Carman, with the help of Joseph Augusta, drew names for door prizes.

In addition, Jeff Reinert of Atwood, wanted to give a special thanks to Fred and Marsha Magley for taking an interest in him and teaching him about historical information and places such as Pike's Peak, Fort Leavensworth, and especially about the Texas cattle trails.

Special recognitions were given to Demi Shahan, eldest Kansas born man; Mayra Miller, eldest Kansas born woman; Robert Keller, eldest Cheyenne born man, June 17, 1922; Gladys

Cullum, eldest Cheyenne born woman, March 1919; Otto Bandel eldest foreign born man, Sept. 4, 1918, in Russia; Galina Tsernikel eldest foreign woman Jan. 3, 1948 in Russia; Edwin Meyer, 98, eldest man attending Kansas Day, Jan. 15, 1912, Smyran, Neb.; Myra Miller, 99 June 16, 1910, Hunter, eldest woman attending Kansas Day; Cheyann Hewitt, Feb. 8 1997, youngest girl attending Kansas Day; Joseph Augusta, Sept. 11, 2002, youngest boy attending Kansas Day.

Pastor Davison returned to the podium and presided over a moment of silence in remembrance of those who had died in 2009. She closed the program with the benediction and Boy Scout Troop 119 retired the flag.