



## Woman sings special solo

By Karen Krien  
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The Christmas Celebration, Part II, was held Sunday at Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis. Each year, the music, presented to a church full of people, puts everyone into the holiday spirit and brings the birth of Jesus to light once again.

Along with the music presented by the Community Chorus, piano, vocal, clarinet and violin solos, was a surprise solo by Bonnie Cram.

"Bonnie and her family have contributed so much to the community and musical scene," said Neala Carmichael, director. "The solo was magnificent."

Several months ago, Mrs. Cram and Mrs. Carmichael were at a Music Club meeting. Each meeting ends with singing and Mrs. Carmichael realized what a lovely voice Mrs. Cram had. She asked her if she would sing a solo at the Christmas Celebration.

Mrs. Cram hesitated, not knowing if she would be able to. Mrs. Carmichael said she wouldn't put her on the program but if she would sing, she would announce it that afternoon. Two weeks ago, Mrs. Carmichael once again talked to her and Mrs. Cram said she would sing.

The song she chose was "Sweet Little Jesus Boy."

It was a song she discovered about 30 years ago when she was looking for special Christmas music.

"I loved the song," Mrs. Cram said. "It expressed what Christmas is about."

Mrs. Cram said she had prayed that the Lord would use her voice and song to his glory, sending the message of Christmas. As she began to sing on Sunday, she said she felt her voice being restored by the Lord, the volume was there and she was singing exactly

how she felt in her heart.

As she sang the last note, there were tears in the eyes of the audience. There was a standing ovation and resounding applause could be heard outside the doors.

Mrs. Cram has sang in the church choir for years and has performed the lead part in local musicals. She and her husband, Dick, performed "Ethel and Albert," from a radio show, for clubs and organizations for several years.

Ethel and Albert, she said, were so unlike us but we had so much fun doing it. Even after Dr. Cram had his stroke, they still would go through the parts. If he didn't quite have the words right, she said, I just played along making up the parts as we went.

Christmas is evident in the Cram home. Years ago, Mrs. Cram made a life-sized Nativity which now is displayed year around in the family room. There are other Nativity scenes, angels and lights throughout the house.

And, throughout the year, her house is a "lighthouse" for Bible studies and meetings.

"I was so privileged to be able to sing "Sweet Little Jesus Boy," she said. "And, I am so thankful for Christmas as it forces us to stop and remember Jesus died for us. It speaks the truth and the love."

### Generous giving

People were asked to bring food for the Food Pantry or to give a donation, whether it be change, a dollar or more. When Mrs. Carmichael counted the money that evening, there was \$350 in cash and three large tubs of food for the Pantry.

The generosity and loving spirit of this community is overwhelming, Mrs. Carmichael concluded.



MANY YEARS AGO, Bonnie Cram, right, made this Nativity which is now up all year in her family room. Christmas is special to her – as special as the song she sang Sunday.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



FOOD PANTRY COORDINATORS, Carol Gamblin, left, and Candi Douthit, packed up around 25 boxes with the help of Don Gamblin and Emily Elfers, on Saturday. Boxes contained either turkey or ham and all the trimming for a festive holiday dinner plus more food to last throughout the week.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Visit with legislator on Dec. 30

Ward Cassidy, representative-elect, will meet with constituents from 5 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 30, at the Bird City Public Library. Citizens of Kansas House District 120 (Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur and Norton counties) are encouraged to take this opportunity to talk with Mr. Cassidy and send him to Topeka prepared to deal with the concerns of his district. People should take time to exchange views on the issues important to northwest Kansans.

The discussion is sponsored by the Northwest Kansas Library System, Norton, and the Bird City Public Library. Refreshments will be provided.

## Free feed planned for Wednesday

Bud is back with the free feed! It has been 14 years since Bud Erskin hosted a free feed at Majestic Service. This year, the Erskin family, Bud and Lounie, and daughter Kari Meyer, will be holding the feed from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 29, at Majestic Service on West U.S. 36. The menu will include ham, potatoes and corn.

We are keeping it simple this year because we are cooking and serving with a limited number of people.

Fourteen years ago, Mr. Erskin served wild meats including wild and tame turkey, buffalo, deer, pheasant, ostrich and ham to 200 to 224 people. Jim Trembly stayed up all night to keep the fires stoked on the barbecues. There was also a local band playing. Everyone is urged to stop out on Wednesday to enjoy the food and chat with friends.



PILES OF GIFTS were sorted by Austin Patton (l to r), Joe Caldhart and Toni Keller.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Many give to kids

The community was scanned and it was decided that around 50 kids might not have a gift for Christmas.

Each year, the Angel Tree project is headed by Toni Keller. This year, Joe Caldhart and son, Austin Patton were concerned about the children of the Good Samaritan

Village staff. They joined forces with Ms. Keller and together, they helped deliver the gifts. These gifts were provided by people, who had taken angels off of designated trees and bought the gifts. Everyone worked together to make Christmas brighter for the children.

