



CAITLIN WRIGHT IS PAYING close attention to Dorothy Mast explaining how to finish the edge of her quilt block.
Times Staff Photo by Peggy Horinek

Country schoolhouse put to use during Antique Engine Show

By Peggy Horinek

During the four days of the Antique Engine and Thresher Show, the Country Schoolhouse was put to good use. One class which was taught was basic old fashioned hand quilting. Caitlin Wright, 10 years old, was shown by her teacher Dorothy Mast, how to finish the edges of her quilt block which was entitled "Basket of Diamond Flowers." During the four days of the show there were 10 children participating in the class.

The wagon train history was told by Mrs. Mast. It was a segment of the history of how a wagon train was formed in the mid 1800s and would travel the Oregon Trail from Independence, Mo., to Nebraska, where a few wagons might leave the Oregon Trail and turn south to connect with the Antique Trader's Trail to northwest Kansas. Before leaving, there were so many things that had to be established such as: to use teams of oxen, horses or mules, date that the wagon train would leave, picking a wagon master, scouts,

drivers, and a wagon council. The types and amounts of supplies, tools for repairs and small farm tools had to be determined. Their water supply and sources were essential. The people that attended were amazed at what their ancestors went through and how they did it. Mrs. Mast had heard the stories of the wagon trains many times during her growing up years from her grandmother who was told first hand the things her grandmother had gone through.

Creme extremes to open year for Bird City Teens for Christ

A giant banana split and shaving cream wars will kick off a new year of meetings for Bird City Teens For Christ. The evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. officially and end at 9 p.m. on August 21. Youth from grades sixth through 12 are invited, but are cautioned not to wear good clothes. Like last year, the meetings will be held at St. John Lutheran Church.

The community is asked to help provide supplies for the opening night. Ice cream, bananas (not too far in advance), toppings, paper goods, and shaving cream are needed. Donations

can be left at either the Lutheran Church or the United Methodist Church. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Each Wednesday night the meetings will begin with free time from 7 to 7:30 p.m. At 7:30 p.m. there will be a half hour of games. From 8 to 9 p.m. the Senior High youth will head to the United Methodist Church for music and lesson time, while the Junior High youth stay at the Lutheran Church.

Pastor Doug Mason, of Immanuel United Methodist Church said, "With the sudden growth of the program, we

found it necessary to split the group in order to better meet the needs of the youth. There is a large difference in maturity between sixth and 12th grade."

Food is an important part of the Teens For Christ meetings and the community will be asked again to help supply food for each Wednesday night program. Since the group will be splitting during the evening, the snacks will be offered from 7 to 9 p.m.

Anyone interested in helping with leadership, please contact Doug Mason or Robert Bell.

Echoes on the Southwind

By Dorothy L. Mast

Benjamin Bird of English ancestry was born April 16, 1833, to Jesse and Leadicia Bird at Hardin County, Ky. on the family plantation where he grew to manhood.

As I have no written records on his growing up years, I will attempt to give you a little historical background of how a plantation came into being during that period of time.

While an area in America was still in the primitive stage of development it was usually visited by an Eastern planter seeking a favorable spot for settlement. That individual usually owned a large plantation and many slaves in the east but he had decided to move, either because of soil exhaustion in the old fields or he recognized the chance for greater profits on the west's virgin land. On arriving at his newly purchased land, the planter directed his slaves into the main tasks needed to lay out a plantation. Some were set to building cabins that would serve the owner's family, others to clearing land and planting the first crops.

In the following years the plantation profits steadily mounted, for his slave labor allowed him to extend his

cultivated areas more rapidly. In good seasons the price of crop produce favored the larger plantations and in poor seasons they were more able to survive than the small farmers. Slavery and the large plantation system permitted wealth to perpetuate itself and combined to drive the less fortunate westward.

One would have to study the daily events of a Kentucky plantation during the time frame of 1830 to 1860 to understand its effect on the life of young Benjamin Bird.

Benjamin Bird married Amanda Snail on June 21, 1859, and resided on a small plantation near Danville, Ky. At the time of their marriage Ben and Amanda were given a family of slaves as a wedding present. Three girls, Lila, Fannie and Elle (Nellie) were born on this plantation. Later Benjamin Bird gave the slaves their freedom. However, the slaves chose to remain with the Bird household.

One has to understand that slaves during that period of time had known no other life but one of servitude to a master. Quite often the slaves were denied the knowledge of how to read or write and were punished if they attempted to learn. Family sources state

that Benjamin and Amanda treated the slaves fairly and with dignity. They were housed and fed well which led to the decision of the slaves to remain with the Bird household rather than to take the road to freedom.

Mrs. Helen (Munn) Larkin, granddaughter of Benjamin and Amanda Bird, leaves us the following family story: "When I was 16 years of age, my father and mother, William and Nellie (Bird) Munn and I went to St. Joseph, Mo. and found the old slave lady. She was 103 years old at that time and was in good health. My mother offered her a home with them in Aurora, Colo., but the old slave lady said, "All my family is buried here so here I will stay."

Sometime during the 1863-64 period, the young Ben Bird family with the slave family left the Danville, area and went north by The Underground Railroad, through the northern lines into Missouri, where Benjamin Bird was engaged in the mercantile business.

Next month: Civil War and its effects on the Bird family.

Occasions

Antholz family reunion

The descendants of Cord Hinrich Antholz and Anna Ilsa Fahrenbohl Antholz met for a reunion at the Ramada Inn in Colby on July 20 and 21. There were 128 present.

Those attending include: Gilbert and Janice Antholz, Hal and Becky Antholz and family, Craig and Jeri Antholz and family, Gene and Carol Mears, Brenda Gaines Loker, Albert and Ana Antholz, Harvey and Frieda Black, Robbin, Austin and Justin Antholz, Kevin Mears, Carl and Sandra Antholz, Crystal and Brandee Mears, all of McDonald; Ray and Myrna Merz of Arkansas City; Janet and Burette Griffith, Westminster, Colo.; Allen and Janell Antholz and family, Springfield, Mo.; Doug and Donna Burr, Hays; Dorothy Engleman, Herndon; Bev and Hig Higgins, Dee and Stan Dorsch, Bird City; Alberto and Angela Antholz and son of Wichita; Albert Antholz, Delwin Antholz, David Antholz, Cook, Neb.; Erich and Debbie Baca and family, Loveland, Colo.

Also attending were: Rick and Maria Hardwick and son, Garden City; Ritchie and Linda Loflin and family, Greg and Sharalee Burr, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Greg and Noell Hubbard and family, Smith Center; Kyle and Kristy Richardson and family, Oshkosh, Neb.; Mercedes and Emily White, Austin, Texas; Clayton and Lila Nietfeld, Eaton, Colo.; Marilyn Lehnert, Las Vegas, Nev.; Wayne and Irma Deeds, Edson; Phil and Carol Merz, Parker, Colo.; Doyle and Dianne Merz, Lawrence, Paul and Sean Peters, Idalia, Colo.

Others attending include: Raymond and Margaret Peters, Wray, Colo.; Don and Roberta Antholz, David, Eileen and Benjamin Stirtz, Al and Diane Dermann, Lincoln, Neb.; Dave and Monica Johnsen, Imperial, Neb.; Randy, Kate and Melodee Dirks, Garden City; Tim and Ronda Nietfeld, Blair, Neb.; Greg, Jillene and Kaitlin Black, Windsor, Colo.; John and Claudia Powell and Aaron, Don and Florence Antholz, Atwood; and Kurt and Tammy Richardson and Wyatt, Cimarron.

After the evening meal, Gilbert Antholz acted as master of ceremonies. Families were recognized and pictures taken. Kim Richardson and his sons entertained on their guitars with music and singing. Janell Antholz sang two sacred numbers.

There was a short church service held Sunday morning, after the group ate breakfast, conducted by Kim Richardson and sons. Everyone joined in singing praise songs.

Farewells were said and everyone left for their own destinations.

Class of 1977 celebrates 25 years

The weekend of the Tri-State Engine and Thresher Show provided an opportunity for the Cheylin graduating class of 1977 to gather for a 25th reunion. Those in attendance were Tim Beougher, Doug Bolyard, Wayne Magley, Bill Browning, Nathan Nygaard, Royce Kehlbeck, Ted Burr, Jacky Howland Roesener, Jim Anderson, Becky Miller Antholz, Jane Klepper Young, Shelley Linin Beese, Michelle

Sweazy Ayres, Tammy McCann Horinek, Jeanette Downing Burkhalter, Dexter Eggers, Kevin Burkhalter, Craig Sabatka, Dan Wilkens, Mark Jenik, Ray Johnson and Cora Lee Pettit.

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Introducing

Madison Marie Gilliland

Madison Marie Gilliland, daughter of LaMont and Leah Gilliland of Colorado Springs, Colo.; arrived June 24, 2002, weighing 5 pounds, 14 ounces


and was 19 1/4 inches long.

Grandparents are Albert and Eilene Gilliland of Bird City and Dan and Melody Smith of Colburn, Colo. Great-grandparents are Lucille

Bengtson of Salina, Robert and Barbara Spencer, Fort Meyer Beach, Fla.; Stan and Roberta Smith of Brazil, Ind., and Carolyn Dunham of Shawnee, Okla.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscription: Mark Magley, Bird City; Robert Jones, Bird City; Roger Haack, Lawrence; Roberta Linin, Bird City; Jeanne Maring Dunbar, Bonner Springs, Irene Kehlbeck, Bird City



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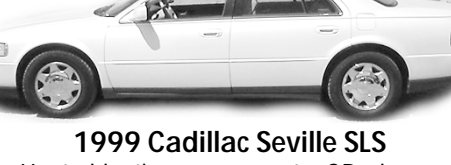
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