

Former Cheyenne County resident enjoys playing

The Heart City Heartwarmers were recently featured in the *Midland News*, Valentine, Neb. In an article written by Laura Vroman, Paul Bader tells how the band was formed. What brings the article back to Cheyenne County is Mr. Bader was born and raised in the county and his sister, Meta Dankenbring is a resident of Bird City.

As a young man, Mr. Bader farmed in Cheyenne County and took photography training under Hattie Joy, who lived and worked in St. Francis. He was employed as a photographer in North Platte and Grand Island, Neb., before moving to Valentine where he opened Bader Photography Studio.

In the article, Ms. Vroman writes: "Six hearty souls, a mixed conglomeration of stringed instruments, accordion, mouth harps, love, and an affinity to see people happy are the main ingredients for the success and longevity of the Heart City Heartwarmers."

Valentine based, which is how they got their name, the Heartwarmers have been playing since May 1982, and was the brainchild of Mr. Bader.

The original band members included Mr. Bader, two women and a man. Mr. Bader had taught the women how to play guitar a couple years prior.

"We played at Pine View (a nursing home) quite often. Then we were asked to go to the VA hospital in Hot Springs to entertain."

This is when they became an official band.

"On the way back from Hot Springs, we were talking and somebody mentioned that we needed a name. Various names came up and I came up with the Heart City Heartwarmers. That's the one that stuck and I think that was because it was the right one."

"Music warms the heart and this

is kind of what I thought about, and the Heart City is where we're all from," Mr. Bader said.

A year later, a man, Bob Tinant, who Mr. Bader describes as a "true cowboy" and another player, Wally Bazyn, joined the Heartwarmers.

Mr. Tinant remembers going to the nursing home to play with his daughters Ruth and Mary and found Mr. Bader and Mr. Bazyn already playing.

"I was glad to listen to them. Both sing and do harmony. We joined forces and have been playing together ever since. It isn't any fun to play alone."

The band plays old country favorites from WWI, music from the 40s and 50s, and some music made popular in recent years. They also play polkas, waltzes and some blues.

Many people remember listening to the Heart City Heartwarmers while they were at Flynn's, which had a Friday night fish fry and depending on the weather, it was held either inside or outside, with the Heartwarmers for entertainment.

"I was sitting in the audience, and if they knew you, they'd call you up to play with them," said Bob Kenaston, the fiddle player, who joined the group. "And if you didn't have your instrument, they loaned you one."

Jeanie Hoffman, who plays the harmonica with the band, remembers playing her grandfathers accordion at Flynn's.

"I would go out there and listen, and I wasn't with the band. I actually took my grandfather's accordion! I couldn't play it really well and decided I couldn't do that. So I started playing the harmonica."

Each of the members are self-taught musicians, most have won varying singing or playing competitions throughout the upper midwest.

On Sept. 1, 2002, Mr. Bader,



PAUL BADER plays his accordion during one of his performances. Mr. Bader and the group he plays with were recently featured in the *Midland News*, Valentine, Neb.

Mr. Kenaston, Mr. Bazyn and Mr. Tinant were inducted into the America's Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame in Avoca, Iowa, at the National Old Time Country Music Festival, before thousands of fans and guests.

Ms. Hoffman has entered the Old Time Fiddlers contest which is held in Yankton, S.D. She entered in the harmonica category where she took second place her first year there. She also entered this year and said, "I played well, but didn't place. I did get to play with Paul (Bader) though." (Which is something she enjoys.)

Many of their playing engagements are free gratis. The last Friday of the month, the band plays at the Valentine Senior Center for their dance. This is a tradition that has spanned the inception of the Senior Center.

"We played for their first dance there. We've played every month since then with very few excep-

tions — very few," and we're still doing that," Mr. Bader said.

The Heart City Heartwarmers are very community minded and play without charge for the nursing homes.

"You can watch the audience and some people really don't know up from down anymore but you can watch their feet and you can see them tapping. It's getting through to them. Music is just a wonderful thing ... it's a wonderful communicator," Mr. Bader said.

When the members of the band are not out about town playing, they're at each other's homes "jamming." Some of the jammers are with other bands and some make solo entertaining. Some have their own CDs, but the Heart City Heartwarmers haven't made a CD yet. However, the article said they might be considering making a Christmas CD.

Extension Notes

By Tye Faulkender



Leaf rust showing up in Kansas wheat

Cool, damp weather has been welcome through much of Kansas this fall, but the conditions have sparked leaf rust in wheat, Kansas State University scientists said.

Producers are expressing concern that their fields are turning yellow and wondering if it's wheat streak mosaic, said K-State Research and Extension crop specialist Jim Shroyer. In this case, however, there are chlorotic (dying) areas with large orange pustules on the leaves. That is what's giving the field the yellow color and how it can be identified as leaf rust.

"I don't recall it ever being this widespread before," Specialist Shroyer said. "We always see some of this in south central Kansas, but it's quite unusual to see it so far west," he said, citing calls he's received from Wichita, Smith, Logan and Comanche counties, among others.

"Leaf rust has been observed throughout the state from south central to northwest Kansas and in north central Oklahoma as well," said K-State Extension plant pathologist Jim Stack. "Last week, I saw severe leaf rust in fields of volunteer wheat in Cheyenne and Sherman counties as well as in newly-emerged wheat."

"The number one question is, will it hurt the wheat? Generally, the answer is no, but I've had reports that some small wheat is dying," Specialist Shroyer said.

Although the severities in some fields are high, the probability that it will impact winter survival or final yield remains very small, Pathologist Stack said.

Specialist Shroyer said the sooner wheat goes dormant, the better. Conversely, the longer

wheat keeps growing this fall, if temperatures don't get cold enough, the rust could continue to develop.

Growers sometimes ask if leaf rust can overwinter and damage the wheat in the spring, he said.

"Generally, the answer is no, it won't overwinter if we have a normal cold winter. However, if we have an unusually warm winter, then it's possible leaf rust could overwinter and get an early start next spring," the agronomist said.

He explained that the relatively early wheat planting, coupled with fairly good moisture and foggy, cool, but not cold conditions kept wheat leaves damp for long periods of time. These are conditions that foster leaf rust growth.

No research has been done on leaf rust treatment in the fall, Specialist Shroyer said, because the threat usually disappears with cold weather.

"It appears that most of the leaf rust is on the old leaves and the newer leaves are okay - that's a good sign. If it stays warm, the newer leaves may become infected as well. I just can't imagine that a fungicide would be profitable or practical," he said, adding that the situation is different this year than in most years. In most years the wheat goes dormant "and that's the end of the story."

Pathologist Stack said that Bob Hunger, a long-time wheat researcher from Oklahoma State University, has said he has never seen a case of fall leaf rust affecting final yield and that fungicide applications in the fall are economically unwarranted. Unless the winter is unusually mild, most of the rust spores will be killed by low winter temperatures.



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