

By Karen Krien

Alvin and Lottie Hempler, brother and sister, were selected as the Good Samaritan Village's Residents of the Month. A celebration, which included friends and relatives, was held at the Village on Friday.

Mr. Hempler was born on May 11, 1906, and Ms. Hempler was born on Sept. 27, 1910. Their parents, Louis and Sophia (Antholz) Hempler were living around Cook, Neb., (southeast Nebraska) at that time.

Both attended school until the eighth grade. Mr. Hempler went to Grand Prairie north of McDonald and remembers John Sears as being his favorite teacher. Ms. Hempler went to Evergreen, north of Bird City and her favorite teachers were Cloe Sawyer and Sophia LaVall.

The Hempler family moved around a lot while they were growing up, but had settled in the Bird City area in 1920. They had lots of chores which included milking cows, feeding chickens and taking care of horses and calves.

They moved to the farm north of Bird City in 1924. In 1981, Alvin and Lottie moved to Bird City.

Through her life, Ms. Hempler said she was a "jack of all trades." One of her talents was making all of her clothes. Cathy Loop, Village activities director, asked Ms. Hempler if she made Mr. Hempler's clothes



RESIDENTS OF THE MONTH--Lottie Hempler (left) and her brother, Alvin, were selected as the Good Samaritan Village's Residents of the Month for May. Cathy Loop has fun interviewing the siblings.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

and she got a definite "no" for an answer.

She belonged to the quilting group and the Lutheran Church Ladies

group. She enjoyed painting, quilting, crocheting and making ceramics. Mr. Hempler, who was a farmer, found tilling the soil occupying most of his

time but he did like to read when he found time.

In July 2003, the Hemplers moved to the Good Samaritan Village.

Village residents see ice skating show

By DeAnza Church

The St. Francis Good Samaritan Village staff is helping make dreams of residents come true.

Everyone has a dream. Some are unassuming and simple in design while others are more elaborate, ornate and colorful. Many dreams are silently carried within each person as they embark on their journey of life. But some dreams will continue to call out to that person until they surrender to their simple demand of realization.

Cathy Loop, activity director of the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis, understands there are unrealized dreams still hidden inside many of the residents.

"We spend a lot of time talking to

the residents," said Mrs. Loop. "We ask them if there is anything we can do for them at this stage in their lives that might fulfill them."

Many residents enjoy the simple pleasures of everyday activities such as Bingo, card parties, gardening, picnics, movies, cooking, sing-a-longs and birthday parties.

Some wishes are unknowingly granted everyday at the Village. There are joys to be found in watching a seed become a radiant blossom, holding the winning hand during a card game, baking a cake and sharing it with friends and being the first one to yell out loud with a Bingo.

But some dreams require more planning. At least once a year, Mrs.



LINDA HILT and Melvin Berry were two of the residents who travelled to Denver. Pat Bruneau (right) also went to the ice skating show.

Loop attempts to make a special wish come true for a resident, no matter how trivial or elaborate it may be.

Past trips enjoyed by residents include two Colorado Rockies baseball games, the Denver Zoo and Denver's Ocean Journey.

Hope Bressler, a resident of the Village, recently mentioned that she would love to be able to watch a live ice skating show. Mrs. Loop quickly made arrangements to make her wish come true.

On Sunday, April 24, Mrs. Bressler along with five other residents, a spouse of a resident and six staff members were driven to Den-

ver to watch *Champions on Ice* perform at the Pepsi Center.

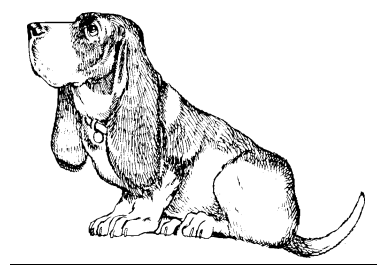
"It was absolutely fabulous!" said Mrs. Loop. "It's so neat to see the happiness on their faces. The smiles are worth more than anything."

"I was very fortunate that I was able to go," says Linda Hilt, resident. "It was delightful, beautiful and very worthwhile."

Dorine Zimbelman enjoyed the beautiful outfits of the skaters and the lighting displays during the show.

As for Mrs. Bressler, she is glad that everyone that went enjoyed such a wonderful experience.

It's the dreams and goals that guide people on their individual journeys. Each person, regardless of how many steps they've taken in life, possess the ability to achieve their heart's desire. And with a little help from good samaritans, the dream is sure to cross the threshold into reality.



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

What kind of society are we living in?

A retired school teacher in Seattle shouldn't have any trouble buying a replacement pet now that a jury has awarded her \$45,000 for Yofi.

Paula Roemer, 71, had a 12-year-old cat which was a victim of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Yofi the cat had no idea that the neighbor, Wallace Gary, had a chow dog, that was on the loose.

Before Yofi could make it to the safety of Roemer's home, the chow chow on the poor, unsuspecting feline.

Don't get me wrong. No cat deserves to be bit in two. Even the stray cats that use my open Jeep for a litter box are allowed to live. I do wish they wouldn't mark my vehicle and after printing this I probably will not be able to resell it around here.

But come on, \$45,000! Mrs. Roemer claimed that after Yofi's demise she was left with sleep disturbance, panic attacks and depression, "causing her to begin smoking heavily." (Thank God she doesn't live in Boulder, Colo., where smoking is illegal.) I also wonder how she handled a rough day in the classroom?

Judge Barbara L. Linde matched a California ruling that placed the pet's special value at \$30,000. That case was for a dog that was murdered by a vet. The additional \$15,000 was awarded to Mrs. Roemer for emotional distress.

I feel emotional distress for the jury and judge that came up with this ridiculous ruling. What cat or dog could be worth \$30,000? What happens if my Scottish Terrier that I paid \$250 for got uan over? I guess I fork out another couple hundred plus or go without.

Bird City auction to aid fire house

By Casey McCormick

A benefit auction will be held Saturday, May 14, at the Bird City American Legion Hall. Community Club has organized the auction that will raise funds for the Bird City Fire Department.

A dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The auction begins at 7 p.m.

The money raised will help with improvements to the Bird City Fire and Emergency Medical Technician Building on Bird Avenue. Plans are to complete the meeting room and bring the structure up to code.

Some of the items to be bid on

are: 1960's pedal car, hunting knife and sheath, large gumball machine, lap quilts, old cream can, oak desk, antique Singer sewing machine, lawn fertilizer, generic Round-Up weed killer, garden statuary, commercial coffee maker, microwave oven, old tubs, lantern, bushel baskets, metal lawn chairs, outdoor furniture, handiwork, Longaberger basket, dishes and much more.

For more information contact Deb Smith at (785) 734-2517. Donations can be made directly to the Bird City Fire Department, P.O. Box 194, Bird City, K.S., 67731.

Obituary

George Wheeler Biggerstaff

March 5, 1919 - Feb. 17, 2005

George Wheeler Biggerstaff, 85, of Gainesville, Fla., died Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2005, at the E.T. York Hospice Care Center from natural causes. He was born in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Mr. Biggerstaff met Gail Moore in Denver, Colo., and they were married for 64 years plus.

He was a retired master sergeant with the U.S. Air Force and served on an aerial gunner on the B-50 and B-29 aircraft. He also was a boom operator on the KC-97 and KC-135 Strato tankers and an electrician in night lighting.

Mr. Biggerstaff spent 27 years in the Air Force. His stateside duty was in Salina, El Paso, Texas, and Little Rock Air Force Base. From there he took his family to Glasgow Air Force Base in Montana. Some of his military duty was spent in foreign countries.

He was a veteran of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars.

When he retired from the Air Force, he and his family moved to Solomon. He opened the B-Mart General Store. He was also a plumber,

backhoe operator and an electrician. Things he enjoyed were working in his garden and investing in the stock market. The family lived in Solomon for 17 years.

The family moved to Woodsboro, Texas, and then to Gainesville.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and Fraternity of OES in Solomon and a life-time member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Air Force Sergeant Association and the 70th Refueling Association.

Survivors include his wife, Gail Biggerstaff of Gainesville; sons Michael Biggerstaff of Gainesville and Daniel Biggerstaff of Mound City; a daughter, Georgan Cossel of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.; 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

He never met a stranger.

A memorial service was held at the Hospice Chapel. Daughter Gan, granddaughters Michelle and Faye and 7-year-old Izzy gave eulogies.

His ashes were buried at the St. Francis Cemetery. He loved to visit in Sainty.

Arrangements by the Veterans Cremation and Burial Society in Clearwater.

NOTICE • NOTICE • NOTICE

Ads and copy DEADLINE for the June 2 The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times will be Fri., May 27th at 5 p.m.

Offices will be closed on May 30. Newspaper will be delivered a day late.



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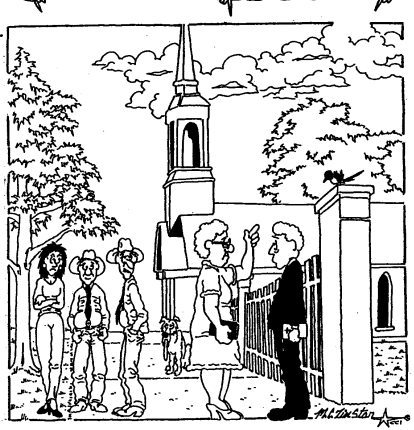
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