



AT THE CHAMBER BANQUET Thursday night, Jessica Bremer, one of Cheryl Metcalf's students, played a piece on the piano for the audience of nearly 70 people.

# Banquet boasts meal and talent

The chamber recognized a teacher, two farmers and a business owner at the annual banquet Thursday evening at The Gateway.

Each person was selected by a committee to receive the award from the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet.

Leigh Davis, a teacher at Decatur Community High School, was recognized for the Outstanding Community Leadership Award. Ms. Davis teaches at the high school and is also the director of the school plays.

Dave Meitl, a Dresden area farmer, received the Agriculture Builder Award. Mr. Meitl has a high integrity, is an innovative producer and is a good steward of the land, said Jesse Carter, with the chamber.

Paul Shields, who lives in Sappa Township, received the Community Volunteer Award. Mr. Shields is the president of the Decatur County Farm Bureau, serves on the steering committee of Decatur Tomorrow, is a trustee of St. John's Church

Lutheran Church, works with his township board and is on the Decatur Community High School Educational Foundation board.

Rusty Addleman, owner of Addleman Drug Store, received the Community Builder Award. Mr. Addleman, said Marilyn Horn, with the chamber, has also received the Modern Woodmen Award, served in various offices of Oberlin Rotary, received the Oberlin PRIDE award, served as the president of the Oberlin Business Alliance and quarter chairperson several times, is a member of the American Legion, helped revitalize the all-night prom for the high school and has also pushed in getting fireworks back for Decatur County.

Mr. Addleman said the award was a great honor. It takes a lot of people to get everything done. A lot of those people, he said, that he has worked with are here tonight. Thanks for the award, said Mr. Addleman, and thanks to everyone.

About 70 attended the annual banquet. After a meal of steak and

shrimp the group was entertained by Jessica Bremer on the piano and Doug Watson, who portrayed Will Rogers.

Mr. Watson is a professor of English at the Oklahoma Baptist University. He received his doctorate in American literature while in Nigeria.

From 1991 to 1997 he toured Kansas and other states portraying authors Nathaniel Hawthorne and Stephen Crane.

Mr. Watson told stories portraying Will Rogers, including how he proposed to his wife and convinced her to marry him. As Will Rogers, he showed off his roping skills and made the audience laugh.

At the end of the presentation, Mr. Watson said, he thinks it is important to do this kind of presentations to help people remember or learn about Will Rogers.

Before the banquet closed, Bryan Loker, with the chamber, announced the three new board members who are Tami Shaw, Doug Claussen and Kari Ketterl.



DOUG WATSON (above) portrayed Will Rogers for entertainment at the chamber banquet. Kay and Bob Gaskill (left) made their selections from the surf and turf dinner.



Story and photos by Kimberly Davis