

# At Home

## Variety of talents shown

By Karen Krien

Bernice and Ruben Bandel, along with their daughter Kathleen Ewing and daughter-in-law Cathy Bandel, have a variety of items on display at the St. Francis Public Library and they will be on display throughout the month of June. There are hand-stitched quilts, dolls and furniture ranging from doll-size to tables for the adults.

Bernice and Cathy are the quilters, Kathleen makes the clothes dolls and Ruben is the woodcrafter.

Cathy began quilting about 15 years ago when she painted the bedroom and wanted a quilted spread. She talked to Bernice who showed her how to get started. That was the start of about 32 big quilts, each a little different and each stitch is done with love because both Bernice and Cathy stitch the quilts for loved ones and do not sell them nor do they quilt for others.

"It takes 50 to 60 hours just to piece the quilt and between 200 and 300 hours to quilt it — No one would pay us for those hours," Cathy said.

Cathy's favorite quilt, named "Safe Haven," has bird houses and is made in the brown tones. It was made especially for her Grandmother Wiley's brass bed. The most challenging quilt is called "Bargello" and is made with strips of fabric 1/2-inch to 2-inches by 3-inches long and it took many, many strips to make the quilt. However, she thought it was so pretty that she made a second Bargello for her sister.

"Quilting is a lost art," Cathy said, noting that she has taught her two



**CATHY BANDEL right, and Bernice Bandel display their quilts at the Library.**

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

daughters to sew but they do not quilt. She finds quilting relaxing and her husband Charlie enjoys looking at the quilts she makes.

One of Bernice's favorite quilts is an

Amish one and is completely white with a colored edging. What makes this outstanding is the subtle colors used in the quilting of the pattern.

Another favorite is the Friendship quilt. This quilt is made up of blocks made by 12 of the members of the South Fork quilting club. A few years



**KATHLEEN EWING shows off her dolls and Ruben Bandel displays his wood working.**

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

ago, Cathy put the blocks together and Bernice quilted it.

Bernice likes to look at it and remember the good times the ladies had while making the quilts. However, she noted that some of the members are no longer living.

She also enjoys cross-stitching patterns on quilts.

Both Bernice and Cathy have quilting frames set up most of the time but Bernice said that when she isn't quilting she does take her frame down — Cathy seldom quits quilting. Bernice helps the Peace Lutheran ladies make quilts so she is also busy other places.

Actually, Bernice has been sewing for many years. Her mother taught her to sew when she was very young and she has been sewing ever since. Her hobbies include gardening, crocheting and tole painting along with the quilting.

Kathleen likes dolls. She has made

the dolls, using heads, arms and legs she bought. She likes the porcelain dolls where again, the head, arms and legs are purchased.

What she really likes is dressing the dolls. Many of the dolls on display have crochet Victorian dresses with the layers and lots of lacy trims. Most of the dresses are made from patterns but once in a while, she will make one without a pattern however, when a person has made as many dresses as she has, it might be easier to create a dress than one would think.

"I like to keep busy," Kathleen said. So her hobbies are many including embroidering quilts (she has her mother and Cathy quilt them) and she also likes making different crafts from plastic canvas. Through the years, she has grown gardens.

Ruben likes working with wood, preferably oak woods. A number of years ago, wife Bernice moved him, his saws and wood out of the base-

ment into the shop next door and he has been a happy crafter.

The shop was once a phone shop and then a radio/television shop. There is heat and good lighting so when he retired from the county road and bridge department, he had a place to go.

"There's nothing on television that I want to watch so I go to my shop to work on different things and listen to the radio. Bernice now goes to the basement to quilt.

Ruben and Bernice's yard is filled with yard art ranging from wooden bird houses to skunks which add lots of interest to College Street. And, while he enjoys this type of crafting, he really likes to make benches, quilt racks, end tables, picture frames and toys. He takes orders but many of the pieces he makes are for the family.

People are urged to stop by the library and view the display.

## Introducing

### Kiefer John Eberhardt

Kiefer John Eberhardt was born May 21, 2003, at 8:41 p.m. at Goodland Medical Center weighing 9 pounds, 3.5 ounces and was 21 inches long. Parents are Stacie Cooper and Eric Eberhardt of Goodland.

Maternal grandparents are Rod and Michelle Cooper of Goodland and Roger and Janet Jensen of St. Francis. Paternal grandparents are David Eberhardt of Kentucky and Barbara Caton of West Virginia. Maternal great-grandparents are John and Joanne Petrachich, and Johnny Cooper of Goodland, Duane and Peg Hanke of Goodland.

### Connor Scott Upson

A baby boy, Connor Scott, was born to Scott and Sherry Upson of Larned, at 5:15 a.m. on April 27, 2003, at Central Kansas Medical Center at Great Bend. Connor weighed 7 pounds, 7.5 ounces and was 20 inches long. Connor is joined at home by his older sister, Corrie Anne.

Maternal grandparents are Wayne and Janie Blakemore of Tyro and the late Clifford Watts. Paternal grandparents are Joan and Jacques Mollerker of Larned and Ron Upson of Beaver City, Neb. His paternal great-grandparents are the late Amil Stunkel and the late Marguerite Stunkel.



**25TH ANNIVERSARY - Rex and Sandi Murray were married in Goodland 25 years ago. Cards of congratulations will reach them at 2098 Rd 80, Goodland, KS 67735.**

## Idalia student receives academic scholarship

Valerie Soehner, a recent graduate of Idalia High School, has been awarded an academic scholarship for the 2003-04 school year at Colby Community College.

Valerie is the daughter of Jerry and Cheryl Soehner of Wray.



Soehner

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