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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL

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944 7

Souvenir Booklet — \$1 a Copy

RILEY COLINTY, KANSAS GENEALOGICAL SQCIETY 908 KEARNEY MANHATTAN, KANSAS



944 7

Sondenir Booklet — \$1 a Copy RII EY COUNTY, KENSAS (GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 903 SEARNEY

DEDICATION

To the dauntless pioneers whose hopes and dreams have been realized in a prosperous community of staunch, cooperative, hard-working people, this little "Souvenir Issue" is dedicated with high courage and faith for the building of an ever greater and better

BIRD CITY

2033168



Shown here is an early Bird City Baseball Team (around 1908). Top row, left to right, unknown, Bret Waters (manager), and Bill Taylor. Second row, left to right, unknown, John Woods, Ira Elliott, and Frank Elliott. Bottom row, Harry Weinstein, Mark Woods, and Frank Woods.

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SIRD CITY

ROBBIES



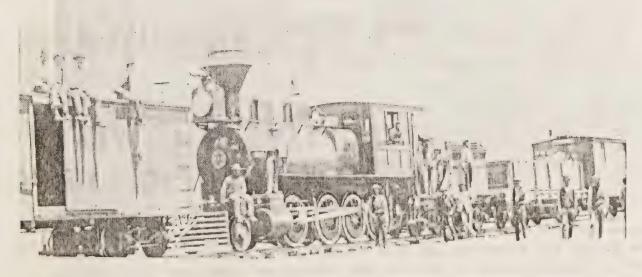
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Bird City - Viewed From Top of School House - 1908

Truly, the early pioneers of Northwest Kansas were inspired when they chose to plant a town in the present site of Bird City. They thrilled to the promise of the rising sun and to the serene peace of the flaming sunset. Here in the heart of the great American Wheat Belt has risen a thriving community of industrious, progressive, God-fearing citizens, always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone in need and to cooperate in making any worthwhile project a reality. This fine cooperative spirit is evidenced by the interest and support given to Church, school and community activities.

In order that some of the achievements and activities of Bird City be preserved, this souvenir issue of 1960 is an attempt to bring together items of interest from yesteryear and by listing activities and projects of today to show the continued growth and progress.



Bird City's first train — 1887 — This picture was presented to the Golden Jubilee Association by J. L. Payne of Canon City, Colo.



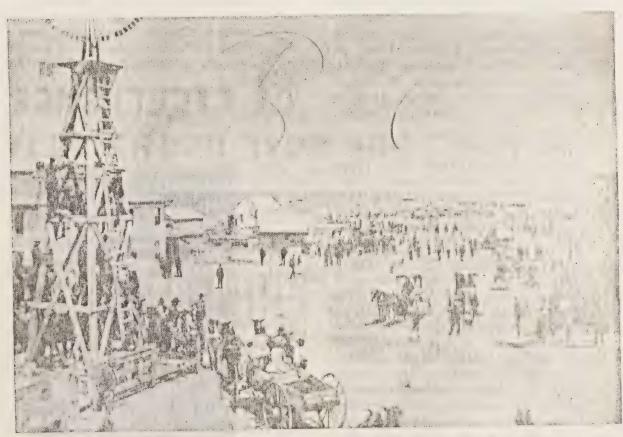
The Name Bird City . . .

Bird City was named after Benjamin Bird, who came to this county in 1882 and engaged in cattle business. He was President of the Northwest Cattle Company and the land on which Bird City is built belonged to this company. It was opened for homestead settlement in 1885. One of Mr. and Mrs. Bird's daughters, Nellie, married William Munn, living north of Bird City on Big Timber. Benjamin Bird was L. A. Munn's grandfather.

When Bird City first became the county seat on the 15th of May, 1886, the population was about 1500. Many of the business buildings and residences were farther west than they are today. The first newspaper was called the Bird City News and was published by John and George Murray in 1886. The next paper was the Bird City Democrat. Mr. Fraker bought the News, Later George Lawless bought it, and the paper was moved to St. Francis and the name was changed.

Kerndt Brothers built the first store in 1885. All supplies had to be hauled by team from Benkelman, Nebraska, the nearest railroad. The Post Office was in the same building, Mr. Mortiz was the first Postmaster.

A brother Charles Mortiz married Sadie Gaunitz and they had two daughters, Mrs. Herth a Benkelman and Mrs. Beulah Harrison.



An early day 4th of July celebration shows the center well that was so popular in those days. In 1887, the Tubular Well Co. contracted and started work on this well. They never finished the job, but later it was dug deeper and good water was found. Bird City later had three wells, a West well, a center well and an East well.



Items From Bird City News

Seventy-five Years Ago . . .

Bird City is now wrestling with the water works question. Wind does not seem to be reliable and now they want steam.

We are requested to announce that a meeting of the Democrats of Cheyenne County will be held in the court house in Bird City the first Monday in January 1887 for the purpose of organizing a Central Committee and transacting other business.

Dr. Butler from Wano came over to Bird City last week and assisted in the examination of the County treasurers books and reports the amount on hand as being \$4,241.43 and everything as straight as a string.

Advertisement of Howk & Sons

Attention Farmers! The time has arrived for cyclones, tornadoes, therefore protect yourselves and insure with old Reliable Phoenix Insurance Co.

Calico ____ 5 cents per yard.

Ribbon ____ 10 cents per yd.

Overalls ___ 80 cents a pair.



This little washing machine was invented by J. T. Maxon about 1885. Pictured by the invention is Annie, Trickett.

One firm in Bird City purchased 30,000 bushels of corn that was raised in the vicinity.

Bird City is preparing to have a grand time on July 4, and kindly invites the people of the county to assist them in celebrating the national day.

The St. Francis band will assist in furnishing the music. A ball game will be played between the two towns-winners to receive a gold medal. (Note: Bird City- lost) Fine speakers, fast races, grand fire works and numerous other attractions.

A story is going the rounds about a Bird City farmer who went into the drug store and for the first time saw a phonograph. He was told to drop a nickel in the slot and hear the music. He dropped his nickel—put the tube to his ear and after listening a second started for the door, "Gosh all fishhooks, Here comes a brass band and I left them mules unhitched."

Farmers are going to experiment with the following crops this summer--wheat, corn, barley, potatoes, buckwheat, cotton, flax, tobacco, broomcorn, millet and sorghums.

Mr. A. G. Trickett of Bird City has put in a 16 ft mill with a four inch cylinder and at the great depth of 244 feet with 15 ft. of water, it throws 700 gallons per hr. at this rate running ½ the time during the year it will amount to 1 inch of water over 80 acres. If this proves to be a success the question of irrigating on the high divide has been solved (1895).

There has never been a crowd here from the west side of the county that willingly spent a cent in our city.



Reminiscences . . .

By Mrs. Florence Hurley

A copy of the following was placed in the corner stone of the present Cheyenne Co. Court House May 14, 1924.

"Thinking this would be a great opportunity to get free land and make the prairie blossom as a rose and with optimistic thoughts of the future, my husband and I with one child decided to try out a homestead in sunny Kansas, where land which had been used by cattlemen, was opened for settlement -so with high hopes of future possibilities, we left our homes in Iowa.

The emigrant train that brought us and others was made up of twenty one freight cars and a passenger car attached for the families. The land had all been filed on in the fall before and we arrived in Benkelman February 22, 1886 our homestead being northwest of Bird City.

At that time everything was freighted from Benkelman, sod houses were built all over the prairies. One great difficulty at that time was lack of water. No well machines were in the country to put down deep wells, and we would go five miles to a spring with wooden barrels and often the barrels were so dry that a good part of the water would have leaked out before getting home.

We welcomed the rain for the crop and for the little water it would bring in the buffalo wallows so that the stock could have water. Afterwards, when a neighbor had a well put down, people would come for miles around to get water.

The first sod crop was very good and though not having much put out, was encouraging.

As time went on and coal was hard to get, the buffalo chips were easily procurable and was a splendid substitute for other fuel, being dry and clean.

Neighbors there were, though not living very close, but how dear they were to each one, how we all had the same thing to go through, to assist at birth, to be happy with the young folks at weddings or sorrow with those who had death enter their home.

Buildings loomed up as in a night and soon quite a town was started. The next postmaster A. Dobbs, followed by Mr. Beverstock, then Frank Van Doren, Ed Byers, who also came in 1886, homesteading near town was the next postmaster, taking it over in 1900. Since then W. Pegg, W. T. Rogers, Cora Waters, Nell Waters, and down to our present one, Vertie Booth.

Elliotts built and occupied the first hotel where the Farmers Bank now stands. The first church was built by the Congregationalists and afterwards bought by the Methodist people. Mr. Smutz was the superintendent of the Sunday school and continued in that capacity until death.

As near as I can recollect, Mr. Wycoff had an implement store and windmill fixtures. Charlie Fleck had the first meat market; Lanning and Antram held forth at the bank and did a big land office business.

Dr. Pegg and family have been an important factor in the life of the east side, coming here in 1887. The doctor has been untiring in his practice as a physician and regardless of weather, any pay was coming or not, his services were always cheerfully given.



The County Seat ...

Bird City was once the County Seat of Cheyenne County. The following portions of newspaper articles taken from issues of The Cheyenne Co. Rustler, a St. Francis paper, published in January, 1889, tell much of the story of the loss of the County Seat to St. Francis.

The recent purchase of a Court House by our commissioners was the torch that ignited the flame and stirred the people of Cheyenne County from center to circumference and will prove the most disastrous move that Bird City has ever made. The purchase of that courthouse without permitting the people of having an inkling of it was a transaction that showed upon its face a desire to take advantage of them, and fasten a condition of affairs upon them that would forever render a removal of the county seat impossible.

Jan. 1889

NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that a special election will

be held in the various voting precincts of Cheyenne Co. on February 26, 1889, for the purpose of voting upon the permanent location of the county seat in Cheyenne County.

Voting place in Bird City at

the office of Dr. Cave.

Evergreen Township--at Frank Chipperfield's.

Jefferson at the house of John Watt.

Porter at the school house District 2.

Signed — J. O. Catlett, Co. Clerk
Three places were named as
likely county seats, St. Francis,
Bird City and Wheeler. St. Francis received the most votes and
is named the county seat for
Cheyenne County.

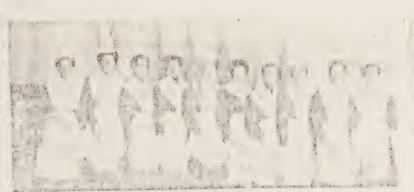


School District No. 45 in 1892. (taken by Squeeky Foster) Top row—left to right: John Maxon, Annie (Maxon) Trickett, Wesley Trickett, Nellie (Maxon), White, Sue (Trickett) Colt. Second row: Jay Manso, Pearl Maxon, Stella (Maxon) Waters, Della (Manso) Armstrong, Rose (Edwards) Russell. Third row: Lettie (Manso) Ikleman, Jimmie Shattuck, Inez Howell, teacher (sister of Ida Henery and Bernice Case) and Louis Manso. Fourth row: Althea (Edwards) Combs, Carrie (Maxson) Brooks and Thetter (Cole) Zinn.





Miss Amelia Trickett was the first Hello girl. The Central office was in her parents' home, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Trickett in 1905. Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Gleason and daughter, Frances, now reside in the same house. She is the late C. W. Trickett's sister. The first telephone in Bird City was installed in 1903, Central office was in St. Francis at that time.



Around 1910, the Ladies Aid gave a play called "The Peak Sisters". Pictured here are the women taking part in the play. (left to right) Dora Lane, Ella Weaver, Ilone Byers, Nellie Skepper, Annie Trickett, Clara Kerndt, Mary Butler, Mary Byers, Lillie Casford, Ida Cram and Katie Shepherd.



Photo Taken in 1909 — Top - row left to right: Frank C. Kellison, Olin E. Smith, Guy Bolyard, John A. Anderson, Walter Butler, J. B. High, Dr. Harry Johnson, Charles E. Hickman, Harry Dobbs, Wakeman Woodworth, W. Earl Byers. Second row: William Rogers. Third row: Jimmy Lamberton, Mr. and Mrs. Conlin, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Butler, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Elerick, Mr. and Mrs. Elerick, Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart, Jemima Rogers. Fourth row: Walter and Edna Shahan, Charley and Mollie Reed, Albert and Ella Weaver, Thomas and Elmira Shahan, John and Nellie Skepper. Fifth row: Ed J. Byers, Earl and Nellie Dobbs, William and Florence Hurley, Wesley and Annie Trickett, Alonzo and Nettie Wyler, W. T. and Betty Rogers. Bottom row: Alice, John and Louise Trickett.



Bird City News Items

Fifty Years Ago ...

Taken From 1912 Newspapers

When Dr. Pegg was going in his ear to make a professional call on W. Lebow, he ran into a wire that was stretched across the road. The wire broke the windshield, but the car was stopped before further damage was done. It is a dangerous business to have wires across section lines.

Mrs. Ethel Scott returned home from St. Francis Tuesday after nearly a week there making some of the ladies look like they do in fashion magazines.

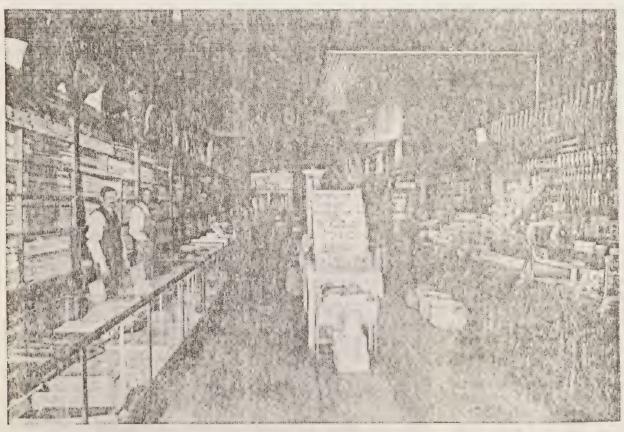
Fred Magley received a valentine the day before the 14th that he and his wife are going to treasure for many years to come. The valentine was alive and very active. Mr. Magley is now papa to 5 bright boys and he intends to instruct them all in the ways of farming.

Arnold Shields and family left last Wednesday for their new home at Galesburg, Kansas. They traded all of their land here for a half section in Eastern Kansas.

Mrs. Frank Overturf with her little daughter Helen, went to her old home at Elk Creek, Nebras ka. Frank is already beginning to think that batching is no luxury.

Four of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Kehlbeck's children have been quite seriously ill at this time and are under the care of Dr. Pegg. At this writing they are showing signs of improvement.

Mrs. Ed Bowans and child from Gomez Palacio, Mexico, arrived Saturday evening. Mr. Bowan's house is rapidly nearing completion.



This very neat and interesting looking store was the Pioneer Store of 1910. It was located where the Harrison building now stands.

Pictured in the store are Leon Wilder and Ira Elliott.



America's Wheatheart . . .



In early days, many threshing crews like this were kept busy during the threshing season. This one belongs to Bret Waters. He spent many years threshing in and around Bird City area.



The name of Albert Weaver is synonymous with wheat; not many Bird City people think of wheat without remembering this great "wheat king" who is named in several Kansas History books. His slogan was; "Grow the world's best wheat, by my seed (Kanred and Red Turkey)". In 1925, Mr. Weaver not only raised 80,000 bushels of wheat, but he raised 8,000 bushels of potatoes.

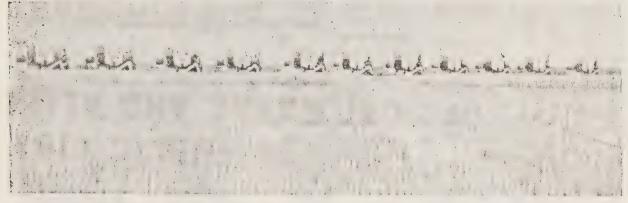




In 1916 our wheat harvest was well organized. This is the Brubaker Brothers harvest machinery. Note the cook shack, covered wagons and bunk shack.



This is J. W. Shay's wheat harvest on the Trickett farm in the early 20's.



These 11 busy combines are shown cutting wheat in Gordon Bastin's field. Typifing a modern day harvest scene.

CITY ORDINANCES AND RECORDS

Ordinance 11 Section 7-No person shall set fire to or
burn up any chips or shavings
or paper or rubbish in any
street, avenue, or alley or lot
and within 40 ft. of any building.

(March 7, 1887)
Ordinance 9
Prohibiting lariating of any animals on the streets of Bird City.

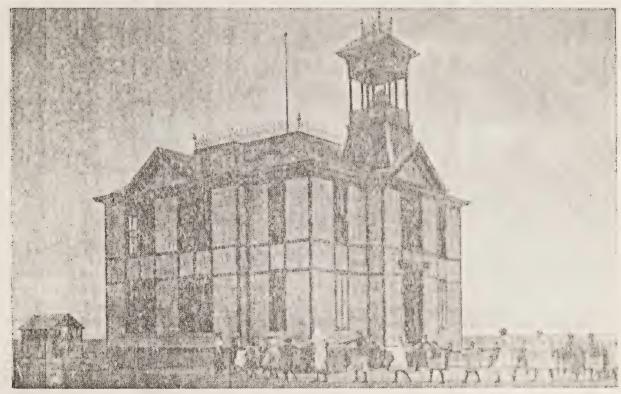
Cemetary ground purchased for 187.50 from C. L. Antrama Aug. 2, 1887.

Site purchased for city waterworks from Northwestern Townsite Co. for \$130.00.

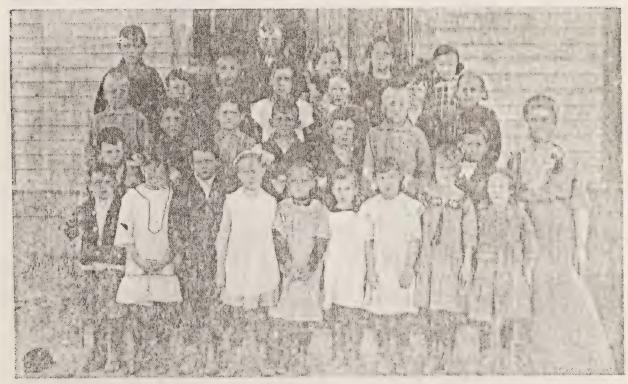
First city election held Monday April 4, 1887. A woman was nominated for councilman in February of the same year.



Schoolday Memories ...



The old Bird City School. When this picture was taken in 1915, the teachers were Adda (Ralesback) Hickert and Cora (Waters) McMillen.



Bird City Grade School in 1914. Pictured are: left to right Front row—Clarence McCarthy, Marie Ward, Vernon Shahan, Opal Turner, Helen Ommen, Bernice Kelly, Helen Drath, (unknown) and Gladys Wildman. Second row: Harry Smith. Third row: Iron Mueller, Glen Anderson, Marx Drath, Fritz Kehlbeck, Harry Rambat, Elmer Mueller, Harvey Kellison and teacher, Cora Waters. Fourth row: Bill Ommen, Lyle Woods, Clifton McCarthy, Mercedes Lutz, Vera Byers, Mildred Woods and Iva Kellison. Fifth row: Leonard Kehlbeck, Ancel Miller, Mamie Ommen, Cora Smith and Edith Weesner.





This school picture of Sept. 1915 shows the following people: Back row: Vernal Smith, Helen Reed, Minnie Freeland, Lutz, E. Rambat, June Turley (teacher). Laura Anderson Booth, Miss Wooley, (teacher) Wilma Freeland Sawyer, Hertha Lutz, Lucille Owen, Owens, E. Ward, McCarthy, B. Rambat and Woodward. Center row: Bernice Kelly, Opal Turner, Edith Weesner, Alice Freeland Turley, Mamie Ommen, Kellison, Margaret Smith, Polly Lutz, Helen Ommen, ?, Coll, Vera Byers, ?, M. Woods, Drath, Marie Ward, ?, and Alice Ommen. Front row: Carlton, Irl Elliott, Harvey Kellison, Lyle Woods, Ommen, Mueller, McCarthy, Vernon Shahan, Harry Smith, Carlton, Iron Mueller, ?, Glen Anderson, McCarthy, Mark Drath, Kehlbeck and Kehlbeck.



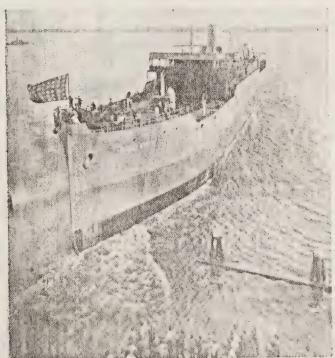
The third grade of the Bird City School looked like this in 1921. Some of the youngsters shown are: Kenneth Shahan, Dale Venell, Ed Byers, Dorothy Neihaus, Hollis Turner, Hester Overturf, Fae Fox, Vivian Bacon, Ethel Rogers, Bernice Russel, Ruth Sawyer, Alice Shahan, Lillie Patton, Doris Byers, Carol Shahan, and Ted Neihaus.





These pictures of Bird City in the early 1920's show all four corners of main street.

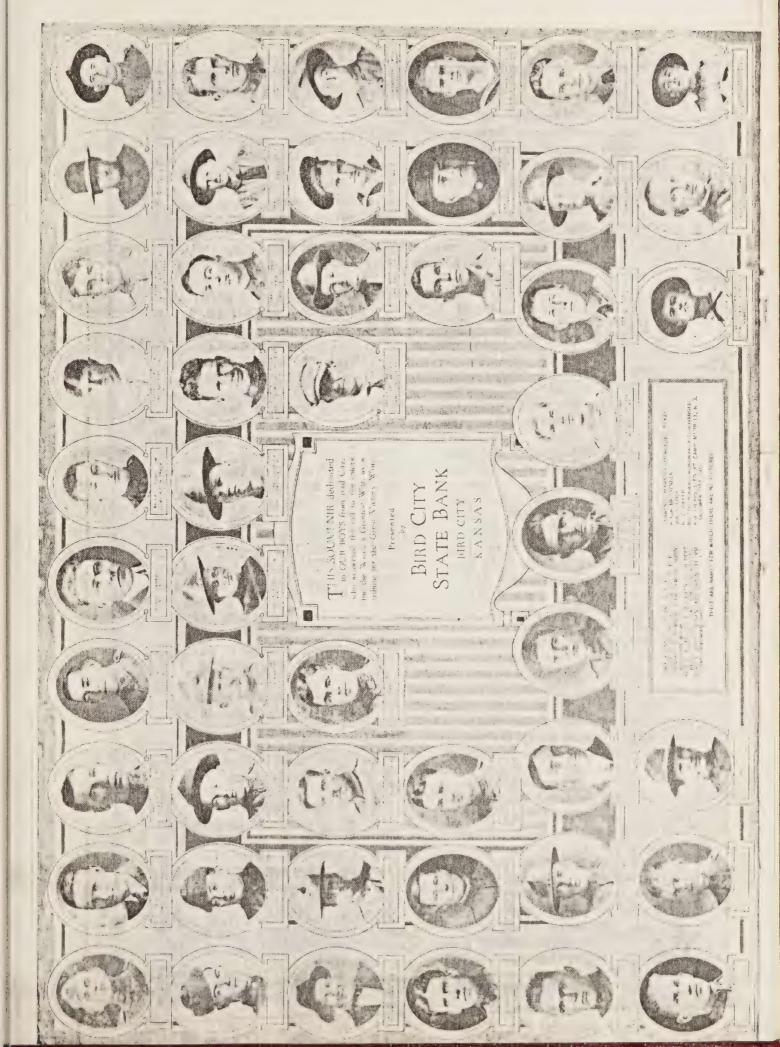


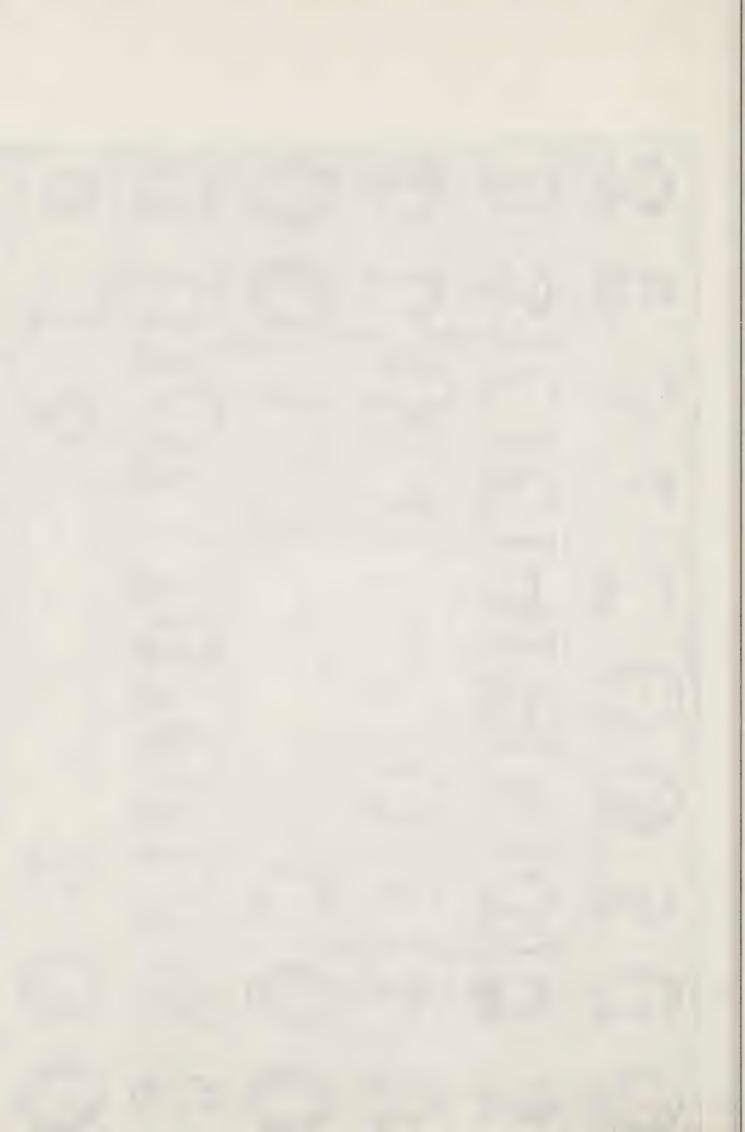


Bertha Kerndt was chosen as sponsor of the ship "Bird City" which was christened Aug. 15, 1919, at Hog Island, near Philadelphia, Pa. This was the result of Bird City winning the honor of being the first town in the State to go over the top in the Fourth of July Loan Drive during World War I. This ship was 7,825 deadweight ton, 401 feet long, and 50 feet beam. The ship was still in use in 1932, acting as a cargo ship between New York and Scandinavian Points.

Marsolf, Hugh Brissenden, Joe S. Deaton, Leonard Dixon, Rex McCarty; R. Smith, Leonard A. Ross, Louis Henry Payne, Leonard R. Dorsch, Guy E. Allen, John F. Boyd, Clarence Dorsey, Floyd F. Shahan, Arthur L. Wagner Chas. Chas. Patterson, R. E. John Norton; Geo. H. Theye, Howard Casford, Row: McNeely, Bernard L. Young, A. C. Day, Andrew E. Johnson, Arthur C. Stunkel, Steele, Harold Pelstrom, Leon P. Leisure, Wm Bowans, Ralph but not pictured, John Flynn, Fourth Row: Robert Sturges; Second Leon Boersma, Wiley C. Walter Garner, Oscar Cormack, Ralph G Grover C. Casford, Herber Hooper, Frank . Neff . Rog-







Signs Of The Times ...

1917 — 1922: ADS

Two new 1917 Saxon-Six Touring cars Regular price \$1,025. Secondhand Studebaker six, 7 passenger ___ \$445. Hudson Super Six, Second hand \$2200. Delivered. New Ford Touring car \$419.

J. L. Lamb sold the "Battery Station" to P. L. and Will John-

For sale: Single-comb Rhode Island Red eggs for setting 50 cents a setting or \$3.50 per hun-

dred, Sawyer Bros. For sale: Barred Plymouth Rock hatching eggs \$3.00 per hun-

dred, A. H. Busse.

See A. B. Nichols for money

for farm loans.

Farmers' State Bank will cash all grain checks. Buy in Bird City; Bank with us.

Save to Build; and Build to

Save, Griffin Lumber co.

P.P.P. Flour, also Steel Cut Corn Meal, Bird City Equity. E. E. Retzer will have a sale Tuesday, March 14, 1922 ___ Free lunch, but please bring your own tin cups.

LOCAL ITEMS:

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Koken and daughter, Marjorie, spent Sunday at the McInowin home in Bird City.

Orville Witham and family were Sunday dinner guests at the J. W. Larsons near Wheeler.

E. F. Overturf bought a threebottom tractor plow and hauled it out to Haswell, Colorado, where W. F. Overturf is going to do some breaking with a Waterioo tractor.

Mrs. Dommy of Atwood trimmed hats from Wednesday until Saturday at Martha's Shop in

Bird City.

. Mr. and Mrs. March, 1922 _ Hassa Bastin and children of Mc-Donald were Sunday guests at the Will Venell home. They were compelled to stay over for a couple days because of the storm Sunday afternoon.

C. W. Trickett, D. L. Hunt and wife, Tom Gettle, and Mrs. Martha Baker and two little daughters composed the party that left by way of Denver for California last Wednesday morning. Mr. Gettle will go to Turlock where his wife is visiting her folks. The others will go to Whittier where the Bird City people are attending school. Mr. Henry Greisler was to have been a member of the party, but is at the bedside of his son-in-law Frank Troutt who is in a hospital at Lincoln, Nebraska.

March, 1922 — Disastrous Fire — Bird City suffers great loss Saturday night when the Shahan Hardware, Odd Fellows Hall and Opera House were totally

destroyed. The fire started in the

back part of the Wade Shahan hardware store which was on the first floor of the I.O.O.F'. building. The fire was first discovered by C. Kolacny of Goodland who was passing through town in a car on his way home from McDonald. Fortunately Frank Troutt arrived on the

scene at this time on his way home from St. Francis and together they gave the alarm. In

spite of efficient use of water, it was impossible to save the buildings, so the firemen turned their attention to the Griffin Lumber yard and other near

buildings. If it hadn't been for the water, it is hard to tell just how much of the town would

have been burned.

The cause of the fire is unknown, but its course was rapid for when it was first discovered by Mr. Troutt and the Goodland man the heat was so intense that the window glass was broken. Mr. Shahan estimatcd his loss between seventeen and eighteen thousand. He Carried \$14,000 insurance. The opera house was estimated at \$5,000 loss. The total loss was about \$25,000 or \$28,000.



Bird City News Written

Thirty-Five Years Ago.

On June 18th Mr. A. Kotas issued No. 1 of the Bird City Times. He stated his policy to boost rather than knock "promote rather than criticize."

Brick ice cream was selling at 65c a quart at Mc-Millen's Drugstore. The Bird City State Bank was advertising that checks were receipts. The Farmers State Bank said "Save In Youth and Enjoy Old Age". Kemp's Market was called the Market Basket. The Bird City Equity was selling ice boxes. J. W. Skepper and W. T. Rogers had land for sale. Snider Garage had good tires. Butch Ernest would feed you and A. H. Keever was selling Peters Shoes. W. W. Shahan was advertising harness and Kellison's Garage would store your car. Griffin Lumber would help plan your new house, The City Meat Market was the place for good meat. Harrison Merc. was selling bib overalls.

Messens C. R. Howk, A. B. Nickols and E. F. Overturf members of the school board went to Atwood to discuss plans for a new school building.

Mrs. Mary Sawyer, T. A. Sawyer and family, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Sawyer and son, Wm. Scheel and family spent Sunday at the William Fix home.

Mr. H. S. Koken is building a large and beautiful home South of town. The interior will be finished in Oak with an open stairway.

Verne Witham was very much sunprised when a few of his friends came to help him celebrate his birthday. Those present were: Mae Larson, Lois Murphy, Thelma Clark, Veda Wright, Daylon Underwood and Harry Rambat.

With harvest half over - study these facts The 3 elevators and Mr. Albert Weaver have bought 28,500 bu. daily. Up to Wednesday evening 85 cars of wheat had been shipped which sold at \$1.20 per bu. and brought in \$153,000.00 into this community. The best yield reported so far was on 70 acres yielding 50 bushels per acre.

Pastors Ernest Munphy of the Methodist Church. H. J. Diekhoff of the Grace English Luthenan Church and A. G. Brethauer of the Lutheran Church invite everyone to church in Bird City.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Cannon are home from a trip east. They bought a Hudson coach right at the factory. Miss Tunner and Mr. Peters came home with them.

Dr. and Mrs. Pegg are selling all their personal property and going to Colorado. We are mighty glad

that the Dr. is going to take that much needed rest.
We are also glad that T. J. Walz, M. D. is in town.
Young people in our community are attending colleges and universitys. Veda Wright, Opal Turner, and Patrice Nichols, are attending school in Lincoln, Nebraska, Raymond Waters and Roy Kite also Lottie Dorsch are going to the university in Salina, Adolph Lillich is also attending Hebron College preparing for the ministry.

Dr. Walz reports his three cases of typhoid fever as coming along fine. They are Guy Long, Bobby Peck and the Jones boy

Movies every Friday and Saturday night at the High School.

This picture Bird City in 1921 was taken from the dot of the school house



Lindbergh Was Here ...



Lindbergh Over Bird City - May 1927



Bird City Folks Spelled Out Welcome On The Football Field

"Lindy was in Bird City", "We saw the 'Spirit of St. Louis'." That was the talk on August 31, 1927 after a large number of people gathered on the football field at Bird City to see Lindbergh and his historie "Spirit of St. Louis" that had just returned from its flight across the Atlantic. The large group of people stood in a formation on the football field to spell out "welcome".

Lindbergh circled the town

twelve times and flew low enough for the people to get a good view of both him and his plane. He then proceeded on his flight to Denver.

The reason for Lindbergh's special attention to the folks of Bird City was because of his association with "Banty" Rogers, a local resident of this area, Lindbergh had spent quite a bit of time in Bird City while he worked with "Banty" as a parachute man. Another memorable time for Bird City.





These two girls' basketball teams both won trophies the same night. The first team (bottom row) went to Phillipsburg and the second team (top row) went to Colby. The first team won a first place trophy and the second team won a second place trophy on the same night. Girls from the first row and several other girls from town went to Wichita March 28-31, 1928, and won second place in the National Women's A. A. U. Tournament.

Bottom row: left to right: Hazel Fishbeck, Hallie Childers, Thera Waters, Mabel Bowans, Rose Lillich, Mildred Feathers, Marie Ward, Mildred Brown,

Buelah Leach and Margaret Smith.

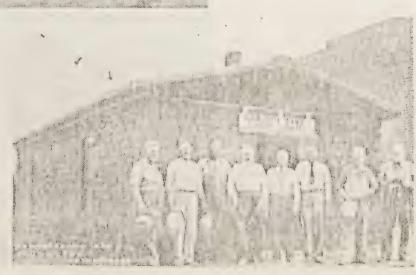
Top row: left to right: Vivian Bacon, Carol Shahan, Eulalia Lillich, Vira Boyington, Doris Byers, Mary Cuatt, Florence Waters, Wanda Keever, Hester Overturf, and Maude Murray. Their coach was Bess M. Cannon.



2033168

Phil Fishbeck's swimming pool in Bird City in 1930. This pool was located behind the old Cress place.

These were the homesteaders who still owned their homesteads in 1935. They are: left to right: Ed Weaver, Bill Sawyer, Paul Wilkens, H. Weaver, O. Igo, Albert Weaver, W. W. Shahan and Geo. Henry.





Twenty-Five Years Ago ...

Fisher's Cash Grocery is selling 4 lbs. of prunes for 25 cents, 9 bars of toilet soap 25 cents and 3 lbs. of Crisco at 60 cents. The Bird City Theater is showing "Little Miss Marker" with Shirley Temple.

Tricketts are featuring sheep skin coats at \$3.49, house dresses 39 cents to 79 cents; 4 buckle overshoes at \$2.49. O. L. Griffin has "Mule-Hide Roofs." The Security State Bank has "A good bargain for Grocer Jones." Watch the Fords Go By, says the John Leach Motor Co. Buy your Lee Overalls at Partch's Cash Store. McMillen Drug Store will now make its own ice cream. Fay Partch is leading the Bird City Band since Vernon Shahan has moved to Pleasanton, Kansas.

Weaver Johnson, E. W. Alden, Ward Smull, Bernard Young, Leroy Howk and J. A. Hanley members of the American Legion planted 20 trees in the cemetery.

Population growth of Bird City: 1932-709; 1933-693; 1934-680; 1935-748.

Republican River on a rampage Friday, May 30, 1935, es timated \$2,000,000. loss to county.

GOLDEN JUBILEE PROGRAM AUG 22-1935

Registration—Sod House, Ball game--Bird City vs. Goodland, Grand Parade--"Progress of the Prairies," Old Fashioned Horse Race, Lonesome Joe with guitar Sclection, Rodeo--Leonard Stroud Managing, War Dance--Cheyenne Indians, Address--Dr. F. E. Townsend, "Father of Old Age Pensions," Old Time Dance.

AUG. 23, 1935

Horse shoe Tournament, Band Concert, Soft Ball game, Historical Pageant presented by citizens of St. Francis, Clay Center Comedians of K.M.M.J., Modern Dance.

AUG. 24, 1935

Memorial Ceremony Address by Dr. Rarick, Pres. of Ft. Hays,

Trumpet Solo- Charles Franklin Evans, Director of St. Francis Band., Parade-"Progress of the Prairies" Kids Pet Parade, Kids Pony Race, Awarding new Ford V-8 to lucky winner. Ford Rangers Quartet, Square Dance, Beautiful Pageant by Bird City.

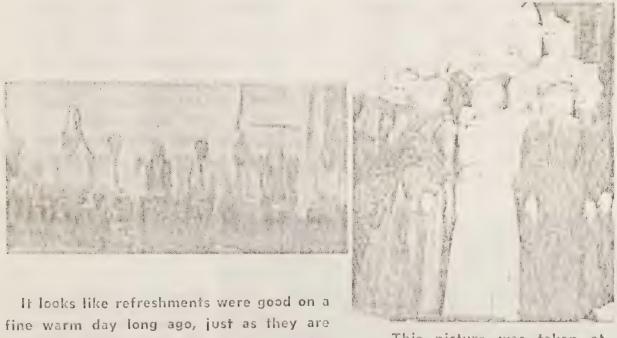


Taken on Aug. 19, 1938, this picture shows George Henery with the original mail-bag that he carried from Bird City to St. Francis on Jan. 3, 1888. It was the first mail-bag carried from here to St. Francis.





This picture taken in 1938 shows people gathered for a Kansas Day program and dinner. Bird City's Kansas Day Program was originated in 1930 by Mrs. C. W. Trickett and is still being observed on Jan. 29th of each year.



It looks like refreshments were good on a fine warm day long ago, just as they are today. Pictured here are, left to right: Jimmy Lamberton, C. A. Butler, John Anderson, Wm. Hurley, Albert Weaver, Robert Cram, Wakeman Woodworth, and Charlie Hickman.

This picture was taken at the J. W. Skepper home in the fall of 1919. (left to right) Top row: Mary Johnson, Mary Venell. Second row: Nancy F. Edwards, Phoebe Pegg. Third row: Emma Howk, Sarah Witham, Anna J. Shepherd, Mrs. Dobbs, Mae Smutz, Betsy Lebow and Elmira Shahan.



Bird City Churches . . .



The Original
Methodist Church

The first M. E. Pastor was Mr. Kelsey and services were held in Miss Thorpe's building, which later burned down. Mr. A. R. Smutz was the first Sunday School Superintendent and continued in that office for many years, or as long as he lived. A Congregational Church was built and later stood idle for some time, it was then pur-

chased by the M. E. people and was used continuously until the present brick building was built in 1920. The parsonage was built in 1920-21. The congregational Church was where our present grade school building is now. The first parsonage is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Munn.

The Pilgrim Holiness Church is now located in Bird City. It formerly was 3½ miles West and 4 miles South of the airport corner. In 1948 it was moved into town and since then has been one of the several very active churches in Bird City. Rev. Gene Whetstone is pastor now.







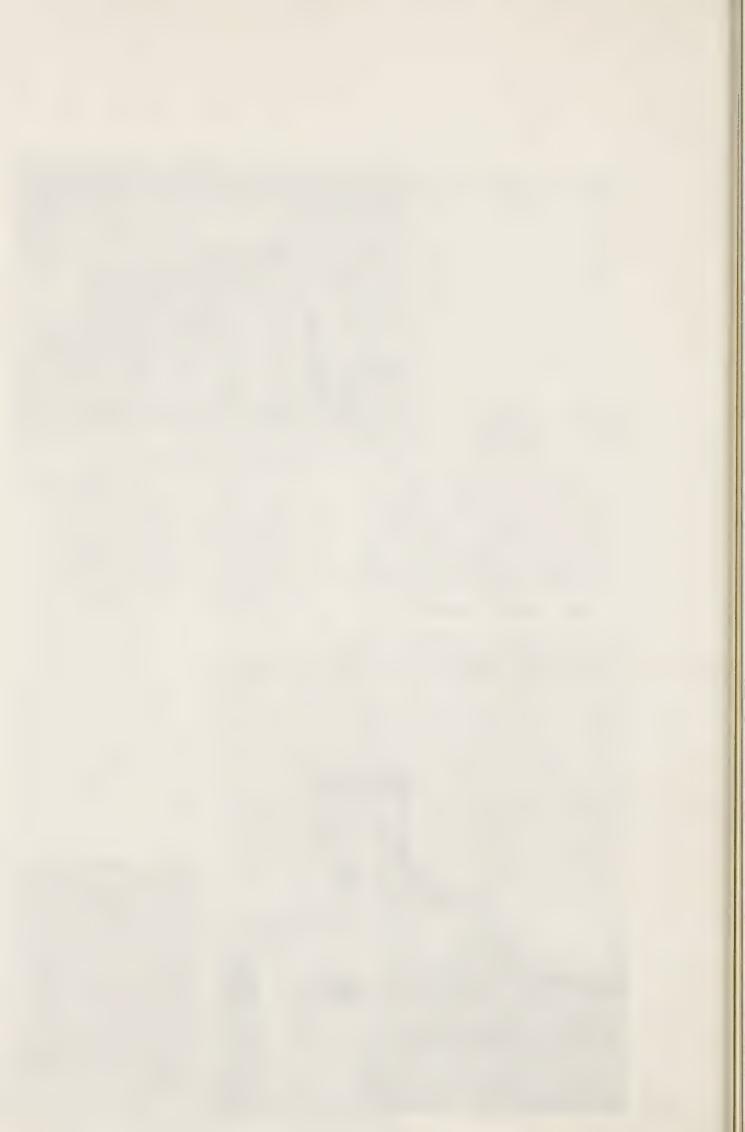
St. Johns Lutheran Church In Bird City

> St. John's Lutheran Church of Bird City was organized the 8th of January, 1911 with 6 charter members with Rev. Hans Meyer serving as Pastor. Until that time the small congregation had worshipped in the Methodist and Adventist Church in Bird City. The Church pictured here

was dedicated Jan. 16, 1949 with Rev. C. N. Andersen as pastor The present membership is 273 communicant and 384 baptized members. Rev. Ralph Radloff is pastor at this time; he with his wife and 5 daughters having moved here from Stockton; III. in 1955.



This Catholic Church was built here in 1911. Before that time the people worshiped in the St. Francis church. There were 8 families that were members when the church was organized, with Rev. Vincent CAP. There are now 28 families attending with Rev. Andrew Hohman CAP. The church has recently let contracts for the construction of a new church structure.



Bird City High School ...

In the year 1916, the people of Bird City Community realized that they had a growing town and that there was an urgent need for a high school. In the typical cooperative spirit which marks all worthwhile projects of this progressive community, a high school was organized with the first term of high school being in 1917. The building was on the same grounds as the present school building. The grade school occupied the first floor which had three rooms, and the high school was held on the second floor in two rooms. The first year, there were no seniors, four juniors, five sophomores, and three freshmen. The first High School Faculty consisted of two teachers--Adeline Romine, principal, and Helen Haskell. The first board of education members were W. G. Lutz, Florence Hurley, and E. F. Overturf.

The subjects taught the first year were algebra, geography, English, Latin, German, and history. Although there was no gymnasium, this first high school had both a boys' and a girls' basketball team who faithfully practiced out of doors.

The first graduating class in 1919 boasted of two girls--Louise Trickett and Alice (Trickett) Stebbins. The Baccalaureate service for these two sisters was held in the Methodist Church with Rev. Fred Blanding giving the sermon. Commencement exercises were held in the old theater, known as the opera house. Rev. L. A. Sittier, Lutheran minister, was the speaker. This was the beginning of the present Alumni Association which now numbers 795 members, including the graduates of the class of 1960.

The present high school building was built in 1920, at a cost of \$60,000 with \$25,000 spent on equipment. The vocational agri

culture shop was added in 1927. The new \$67,000 gymnasium was completed in May, 1939.

Normal training, a course offered to seniors in preparation for taking the state examination to qualify for teaching in elementary grades, was first offered in 1920-21. With the raising of teaching standards, this course was dropped in 1942. The vocational agriculture program has been carried out with marked success since 1927. This course has been helpful to many boys who plan to choose agriculture for their life career. The commerce courses offer students training in typing, bookkeeping, business mathematics, and commercial law. Vocational home economics was added to the home economics course and has done much to enrich the course. Four years of English are now offered in accordance with the state recommendations. Speech and Latin are also in the curriculum. In following the trends of the times, science is assuming a more and more important place in the curriculum with one full-time science instructor, offering training in physics, chemistry, biology I with plans for biology II for next year. Students who are interested in science and or mathematics may be well prepared for continu ing work in these fields after completing the high school courses in BCRHS. In the field of history, Constitution and American history are required with world history being offered. Industrial arts is a popular department for students who are interested in wood work of various phases, including mechanical drawing, both elementary and advanced.

Music also plays a vital part in the enjoyment of the school work. Girls and boys are given the opportunity to take vocal and band with individual lessons in both being provided. Choruses



and band as well as soloists participate in the district and state festivals with many fine ratings being earned. A Christmas program, a concert, and oftentimes a spring show are given by both departments working together.

Many opportunities are given the students to develop their dramatic talent. Both the seniors and juniors present class plays, and an all-school play gives opportunity to all classes. BCHRS students participate in the League One-Act play contest each spring.

The trophy case bears witaess to many successful seasons by various BCRHS athletic teams down through the years.

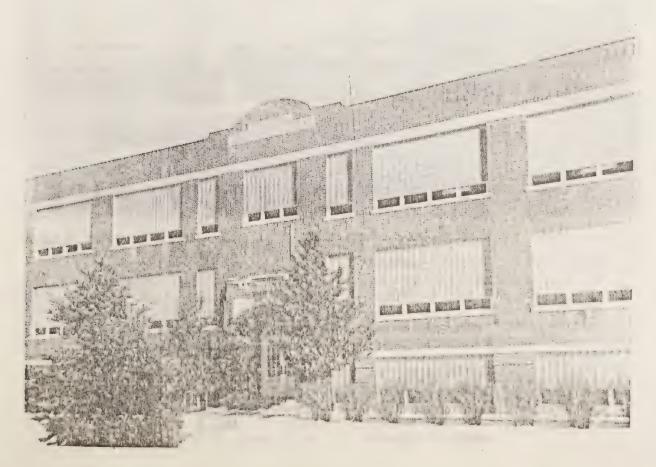
Two typing teams each year compete in the League contests, and a spelling team is also sent to compete in the League contest. In dramatics, typing, and spelling, BCRHS students have been unusually successful which speaks well for their intitiative and determination.

In 1959-60 school year, both

typing teams won the plaques at the League contest; the spelling team won the League plaque; and the one-act play east won the League plaque. At the District Music Festival, BCRHS students won ten "I's" in vocal and instrumental productions. The science department sponsored a science fair for the first time this year. Projects and demonstrations were presented from all the grades and the high school. Approximately 900 patrons, students, and visitors attended the science fair and pronounced it a real success.

The faculty of 1950 numbers nine with one hundred one students enrolled.

The Library includes more than 4,000 volumes with an excellent list of periodicals. New glass brick across the west and part of the north side of the building has improved the lighting and reduced the heating problem. The present members of the board of education are Melvin Wright, Jack Maring, and Chris Jensen, with Mr. Stanley M. Crawshaw the high school principal.





Bird City Grade School ...

On July 5, 1886 the Bird City Grade School came into existence. Etta Linn was county Superintendent at that time, with Anna A. Price and Emma J. Day the teachers. The school year consisted of a 5 months term with the teachers drawing a salary of \$30.00 a month. The school board members at this time were C. B. Jewel, director; Max Rich, clerk; and II. D. Wilson, treasurer. There were 216 sections in the district in 1886, but by 1888 there were only 221/2 sections. Added rural schools making the difference.

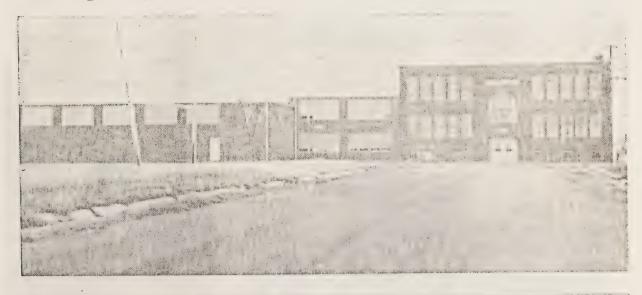
In 1925 the present grade school building was built and with an addition in 1951 has served its purpose until recent years when the school enrollment has forced the building of more rooms. The construction now going on will again make the building adequate until such

time that enrollment or changes in educational methods might make it necessary to build again. So goes the history of any school.

The line-up of teachers for 1959-60 school year is as follows:

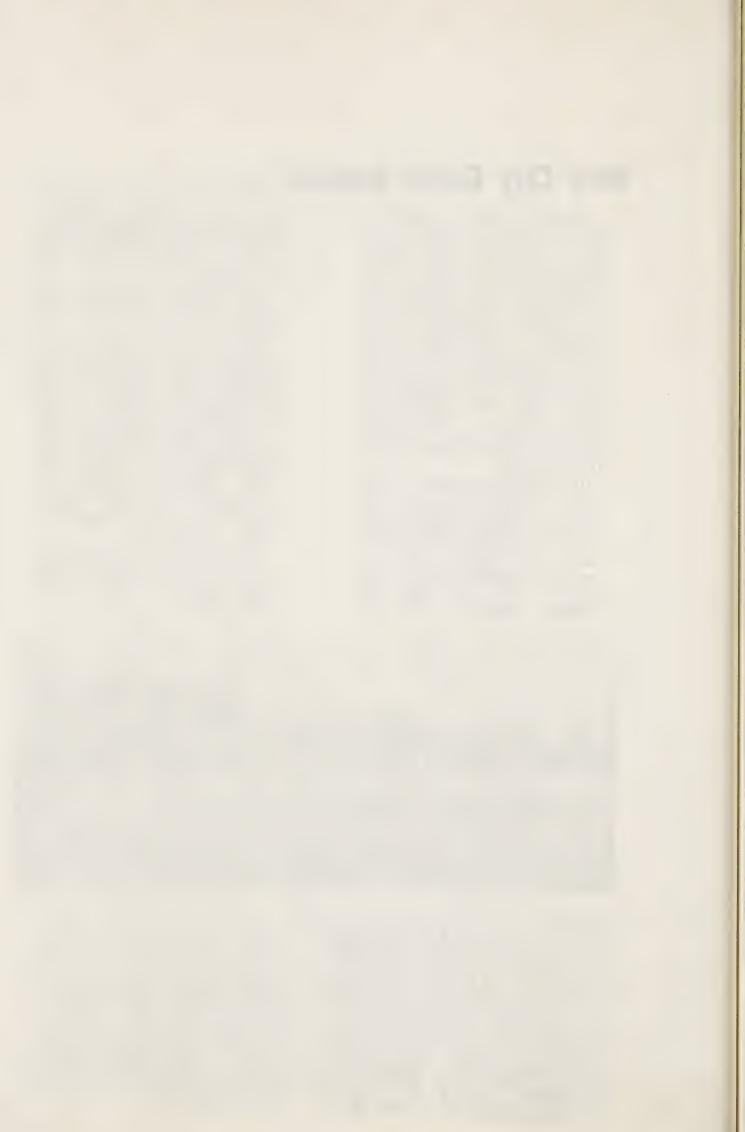
Principal- John Bottom, Kindergarten- Mrs. Robert Boersma, 1st grade- Mrs. Ina Wilson, 2nd grade- Mrs. Guy Long, 3rd grade Mrs. Eugene Daniels, 4th grade-Mrs. Albertice Anderson, 5th grade-Mrs. Kenneth Shahan, 6th grade-Miss Dorothy Niehaus, 7th grade- Mrs. Oscar Creach, 8th grade- Mrs. Oscar Creach, 8th grade- Mr. Harold Schmidt, Vocal Music- Mr. Neal Hafenstein, Instrumental Music-Mr Calvin Canniff.

The School Board Members are Clarence Busse-director, Ralph Leach - treasurer, and Willis Burr- clerk.



Dec. 20, 1917. St. Francis Herald reports Jefferson Township as over the top in the Red Cross drive, listing and following names as donors: G. O. Byers, N. N. Boyson, A. H. Gemmer John Kite, Charles Patterson, Henry Hempler, Harvey Dorsch, Leonard Dorsch, Agnes Dorsch, V. Wolfe, H. A. Rogers, A.N. Gebers, Mrs. A. M. Overtarf, Charles Craft, C. T. Dean, R. A.

Voorhies, Arnold Holscher, John Roesner, Wm. Sturges, E. F. Overturf, J. M. Phipps, J. Pelstrom, George Kite, Joe Wright, Alfred Dorsch, Ralph Dorsch, Julia Dorsch, George Dorsch, R. C. Goodno, Henry Wandersee, Henry Schmeltzer, Dick Mueller, Martin Halley, A. J. Johnson, Asa O'Donnell, Ray Hollenbeck, B. R. Smutz, and George Kuhlman.



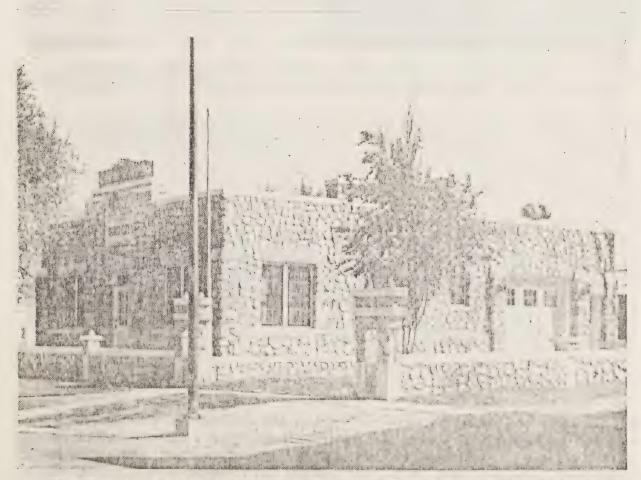
The Steam Engine & Thresher Show ...



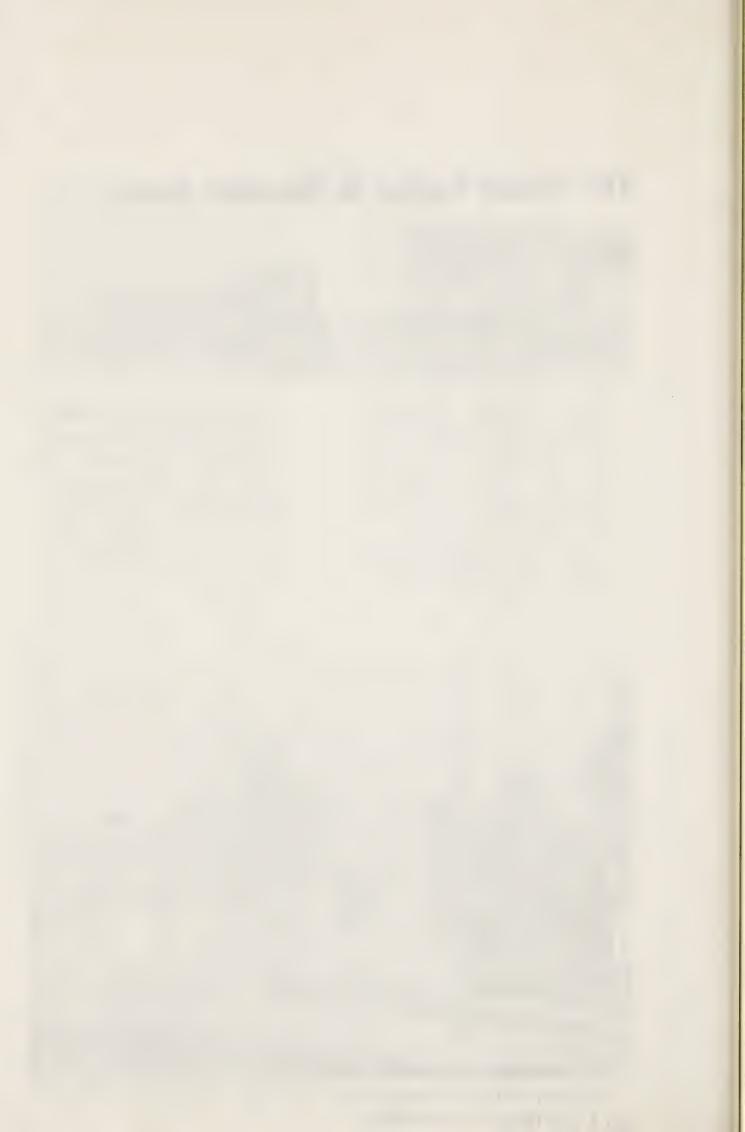


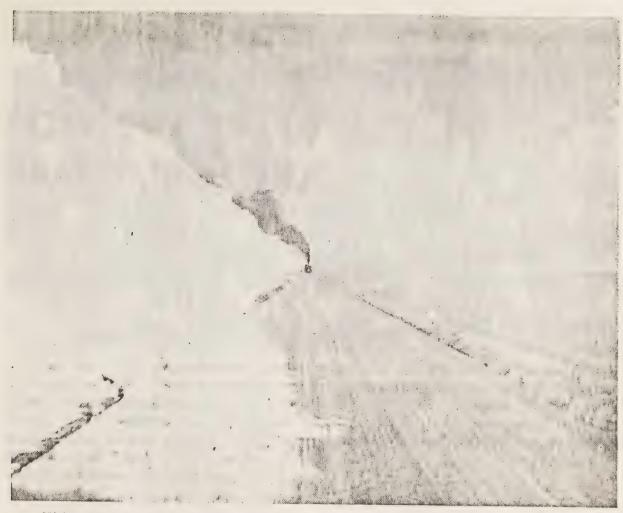
When the Antique Engine and Thresher Association, Inc. held its tri-state meetings in August on the Roy Kite farm near Bird Bird City, Kansas, wide-eyed spectators viewed farm machinery from the distant past.

Many of the old threshing monsters were owned and operated by Bird City fans. Once the last word in farming, the steam tractor is but a memory or a restored antique; its successor, the diesel or gasoline powered tractor, has made it possible for the farmer to cover more acres and do it more efficiently.



The City Hall is the location of the City Library and the City Offices. The Jail is also located in this building.



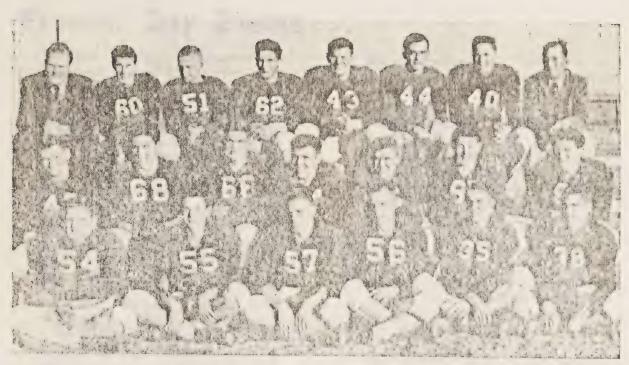


This picture taken by W. C. Boyson was printed in Life Magazine. It shows a rotary plow on the Burlington Branch clearing snow from a 1949 snow storm.



The Bird City Saddle Club has won many ribbons, trophies and other awards in the past, including a beautiful silver tray they won at the American Royal at Kansas City, Mo. Pictured here are: left to right: Johnny Eggers, Everett Eggers, Glenn Glasco, Millie Glasco, Fred Magley, Viola Cole, Arnold Magley, Vera Magley, Rueben Landenberger, Helen Landenberger, Bruce Cole, Arnold Munyon, Ed Kasten and Alden Kasten.

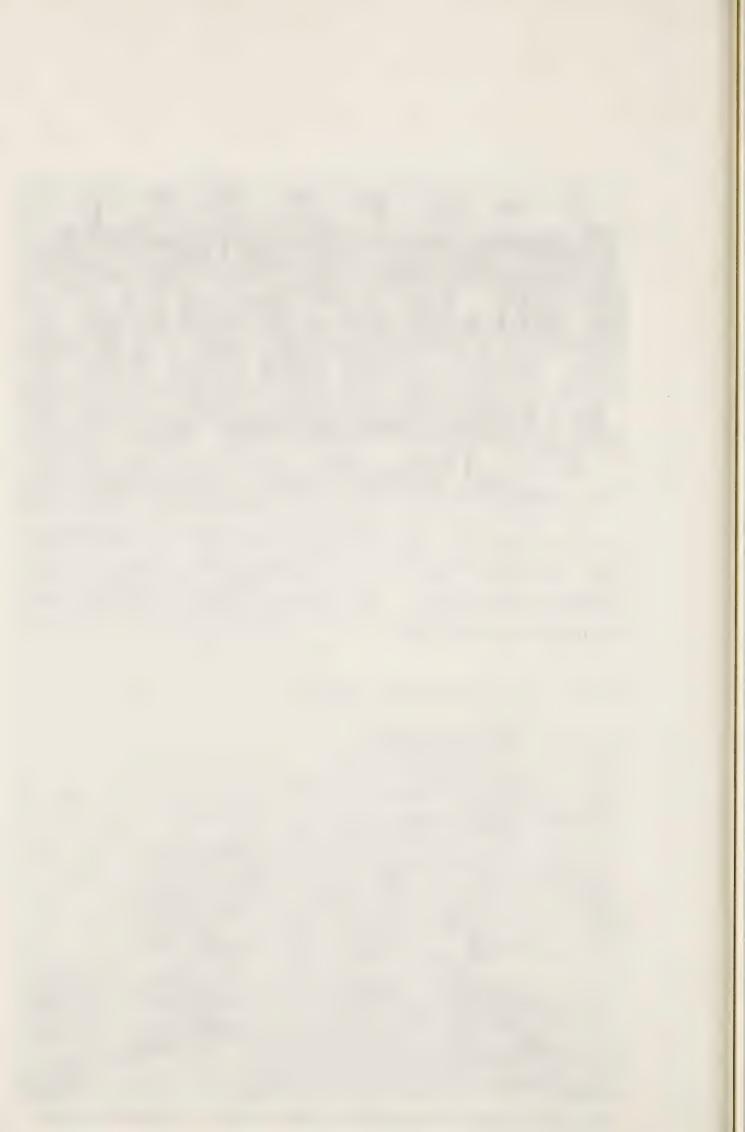




This Bird City High School football team was undefeated and unscored on in the fall of 1953. They are: front row, left to right: Robert Hinz, Bud Stebbins, Elden Forbes, Bill Cress, Bob Sietz and Radean Wright. Second row: George Fishel, Hank Weaver, Don Kehlbeck, Dick Boswell, Jay Underwood, Bradley Rambat and Johnny Eggers. Top row: Quentin Percival, coach; Jackie Wolfe, Kent Sawyer, Clem Wahrman, Jr.; Eugene Lillich, Rod Laird, Dale Brethower and Dick Wilson, ass't. coach.



Bird City's bulging elevators hold the golden wheat of a bountiful harvest.



Present Day Events ...

Grade School enrollment in 1960 is 250. Bird City Rural High School is 101.

A County Church Attendance Crusade in 1960 showed the county church membership to be 2,717. March 20th showed that Sunday's attendance to be 1,481. The churches in Bird City at this time are: The Bird City Methodist Church - Rev. James Holdridge, St. John's Lutheran Church - Rev. Ralph Radloff, St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Rev. Andrew Hohman, Pilgrim Holiness Church - Rev. Gene Whetstone, Center Bible Church - Rev. Harold Petersen.

Most of the organizations in Bird City have been working on Civic Improvement projects since having Dr. Lackey from Kansas State University visited us and give some concrete ideas as to what needed to be done. The Garden Club has worked very faithfully on improving appearance of the Park. They planted and landscaped the entrance, using some dogwood and pfitzers. Then they planted roses around the shelterhouse. They have also assisted Rev. and Mrs. Holdridge in landscaping the parsonage yard.

The City Council_is busy considering the type paving to be used for the extensive paving project the severe winter has made it necessary for us to have.

The City has also started putting up new street signs which were donated by the Trickett family in memory of C. W. Trickett.

In January 1960 the Wheat Growers Association in Cheyenne County showed a membership of 299.

The Cheyenne County Teachers Association held their annual Board-Teacher banquet in the Bird City Legion Hall Saturday evening Jan. 30th at 7:00 P.M.

The Tri-Corner Coin Club

was organized in Bird City in January 1960. The first meetings were held at the Henry Rinehart home.

Dist. Deputy Presidents Verna Hinze and Luke LaRue installed the new officers in a joint installation of the Rebekah and I.O.O.F. Lodges. They were assisted by Deputy Grand Marshalls Etta Harper and Bernard Kite.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Bunjes of Bird City have been selected as one of the five Kansas couples to be given Master Farmer-Master Homemaker recognition for 1959.

The Community Club is having the annual ladies night tonight. (Mar. 3, 1960) The High School will present their one-act play, "Married at Sunrise", directed by Mary Gritten.

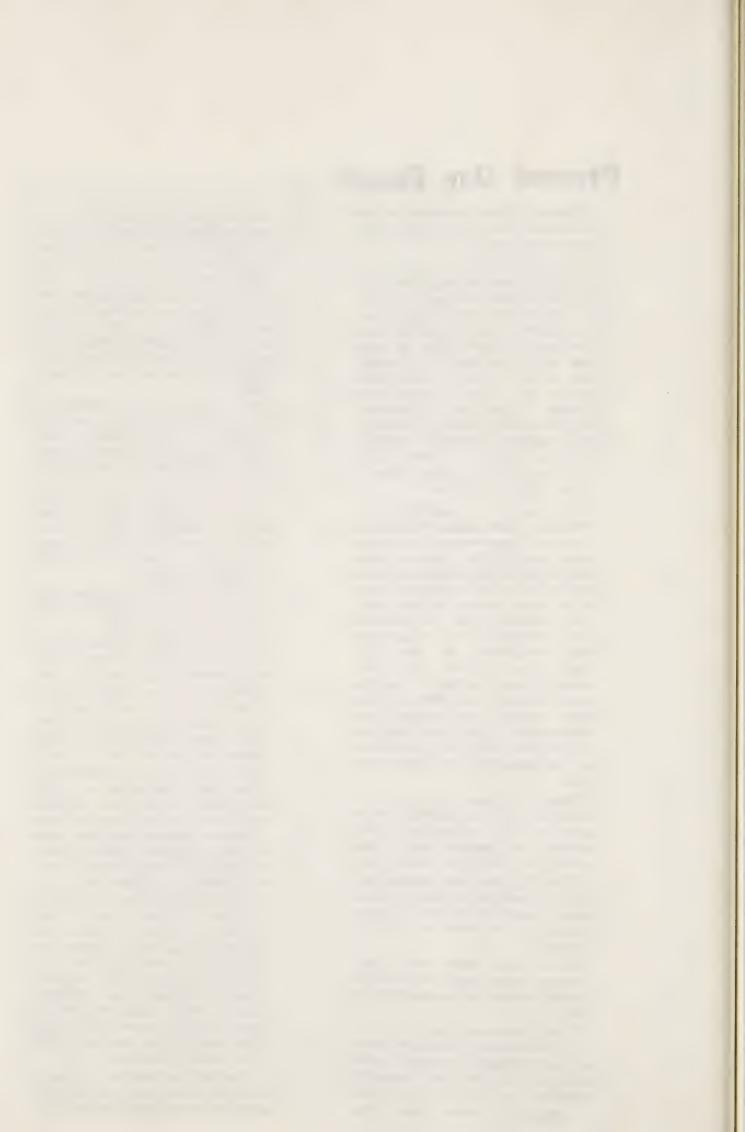
The Golf Club will elect officers Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 at the Legion Hall.

The Community Chorus under the direction of Rev. Ralph Radloff presented the cantata, "Crucifixion" by John Stainer at the High School gym on Palm Sunday at 3:00 P.M. Soloists were: Rev. James Holdridge, Mr. Neal Hafenstein and Mr. Haskel Lentz.

Miss Mary Gritten, popular librian and instructor at BCR-HS, has received the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Kansas teacher, she has been named a "Kansas Master Teacher" by the Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia.

The Student Council sponsored a "This is Your Life", Mary Gritten, show at a public assembly in the High School gym Thursday morning, April 14, 1960. Many letters and telegrams received from Miss Gritten's friends were read at the assembly. She also received many gifts, including a pen and pencil set from the students.

The 40th annual convention of the 6th dist. of the American Legion and American Legion Auxi-



liary was held in Concordia, Saturday and Sunday, April 9th and 10th. Mrs. Henry Rinehart of Sird City Was nominated president of the district for the coming year. Henry was elected as a delegate to the National Convention in Miami, Fla. Oct. 15th to 21st. Mrs. Rinehart is also a delegate to the National Convention.

Feb. 15, 1960 Mr. and Mrs. Leon Brethower received the Kansas Banker's Association Award for outstanding soil conservation practices. This award is presented by the three banks in our county including Security State Bank of Bird City.

The Quad L Cafe is advertising Turkey and Dressing and Swiss Steak for \$1.00 on Sunday, Feb. 14th.

The Bird City Dry Goods Co. has a sale on ladies dresses-values to \$5.95 on sale for \$3.98 in March 1960.

John Deere Day is Feb. 8, 1960 at Downing Hardware. Free lunch, show and prizes.

Bird City Equity Co-op has 2 lb. box of Supreme Crackers at 49 cents in January 1960. Also U.S.D.A. choice Beef Swiss Steaks- 73 cents a lb.

Bill Johnson's Chevrolet ad for Jan. 1960 says, "Chevy forges ahead".

From local Electric Co-op Notes Feb. 1960 - Joe Horner says: As this is written, we have just received another few inches of snow. We realize that the farmers need the moisture for their crops, but all this snow is sure raising cain with our line building. At the moment, we have 14 separate installations to build lines to. They include farms, oil wells and oil pipe line installations.

The Star Theatre is showing, "Bell, Book and Candle" with James Stewart and Kim Novak.

J. C. Gleason Drug (formerly McMillen Drug) is advertising Coty L'Aimant cologne etc. for Valentine's Day gifts. (Dusting powder- \$1.75 plus tax) Roy Fisher's Cash Grocery has Bestyet Coffee 65 cents a lb. Also Gold Medal Flour - 10 lb, bag at 97 cents.

The Bird City Times is now edited by Harold Petersen and owned by the Hale Publishing Co. Mr. Adolph Kotas came to Bird City in 1925 and published the first Bird City Times. After his death in 1952, the paper was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Lorrence Laird. They owned and operated the printing office until August 1st, 1955 when Dick Hale purchased the paper. In August of 1958 The Bird City Times became a part of the Hale Publishing Co. with Marie Rinchart acting as editor.

The three 4-H clubs in this side of the county are very active. They are the Go-Getters, The Happy Larks and The Jayhawkers.

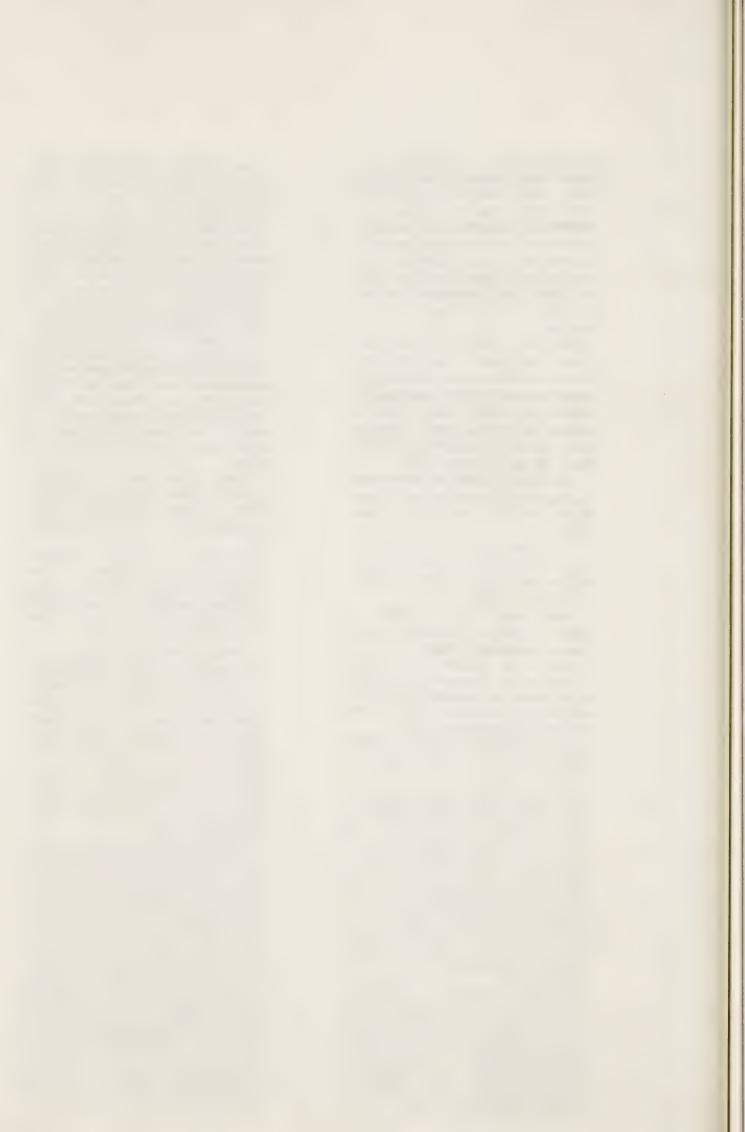
Mr. Bert Childers recently purchased the Hughes corner and is erecting a Dairy King.

Griffin Lumber Co. has a paint sale on now, Sewall Shield White Paint- \$5.89 a gal.

Kemp- Carpenter Elevator has seed corn, Steckley's Genetic Giant and Old Nicks Hybrids.

Dr. Ross Jewell is now practicing medicine in the hospital building. (When Dr. Law left, it took 2 years to replace him. Needless to say, the people of Bird City were glad to see Dr. Jewell come in Oct. of 1959.) Gene Anstey, DC is still practicing in Bird City.

Graduates of BCRHS in college this year are: Neil Hamm-'46, Rex Glasco and LeRoy Hinkel-'51, Bradley Rambat and Eugene Lillich-'54, Dale Brethower and Don Shahan-'55, Leon Kauffman and Caroline Bowans-'56, Kay Chapman, Janice Lillich. Roger Hinz and Vonda Kehlbeck'57, Rodney Shay, Pat Wahrman, Judy Leach, Margretha Radloff, Leanna Long and Sue Hinz-'53, and David Sunderland, Connie Bartlett, Jerry Kehlbeck, Larry Willis, Beth Overturf, Peggy Bowans, Kurtis Frevert and Joan Traxler-'59.



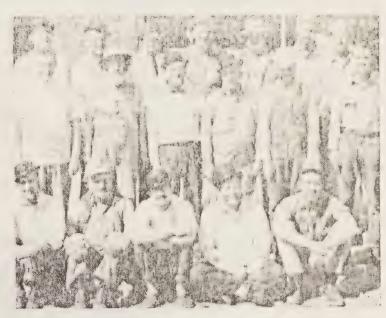


This is how some of the Bird City men looked back in 1935 when Bird City was celebrating their Golden Anniversary They are: left to right: Ollie Griffin, Floyd Gallagher, Faye Partch, Kenneth Smith, Bill Venell and Ed Byers.

These men are anticipating the big Diamond Jubilee with great enthusiasm. They are: front row: Max Chapman, Richard Stunkel, Don Cress, Roy Fisher, and Gene Hilty.

Second row: Howard Sawyer, Grover Rogers, Ed Byers, George Welsch, Francis Hoyt and Gene Eller.

Back row: Irvin Hopp, Quentin Percival, J. C. Gleason, Skeet Underwood, Hank Rinehart, Don Vallin and Olie Patterson.





Here is the old and the new of it as far as cars go; Grover Rogers model A Ford in contrast with Johnson Chevrolet's 1960 model Chevy. Also pictured is Grover Rogers, Bird City's faithful water commissioner.

TEACHERS MEETING

The following persons were on the program at a teachers meeting in Bird City in January 1895: C. E. Curry, May Phelps Murry O. Kilmer, E. T. Howell, May Foster, Clarence Smutz, L. D. Hotchkiss, W. E. Curry, Mary Donnelly, Mrs. E. C. Phelps, Otto Curry, Dora Kemp, M. P. Meek, J. A. Brown and Pearl Wilson.



The Diamond Jubilee

By Amy Eggers and Ollie Underwood

And now it's 1960; Time really rushes by With atom bombs, satellites and Missiles in the sky.

Our world is spinning, spinning Advancing O, so fast Radar and television Will soon be in the past.

The world affairs keep changing So our city changes, too. Especially our men folks With beards of every hue.

And look at all our pretty girls With dresses long and wide Their lovely hats and bonnets Would please most any bride.

This is our city's birthday
We're seventy-five years old
The praise and honors we have
won
Will never all be told.

Remember the fall of '53? Now who could ask for more? Our football boys won every game

Their opponents didn't score.

Our schools are still the very best

With enrollment on the boom We've started another addition Each class needs more room.

Our churches welcome everyone The doors are opened wide So enter in--we know you'll win With Jesus on your side.

This is our Diamond Jubilee We're glad to be alive We hope you'll all be with us In nineteen-eighty-five.

That will be our Centennial We hope we have more room But if it gets too crowded here We'll see you on the moon!



The Equity Elevator Towers Over The Bird City Skyline



Main Street Today - Looking North



Looking South



Note of Appreciation:

The Committee from the Nauti-lus Club is deeply grateful for the many pictures, old news items and re-search that the people of Bird City have done.

For this we are indeed Thankful and it is with regret that, due to space limitations some of the pictures and facts could not be used.

The Committee



Looking East



Looking West















