Be a part of the whoop and holler that accompanies a one-of-its-kind multi-club fundraiser for the Grant Volunteer Fire Department when Perkins County hosts the Ogallala Indians on Dec. 20.

By Jan Rahn
Managing Editor

Getting into the festive spirit of giving, several clubs and organizations are coming together to turn their talent into talents that will be gifted to the Grant Volunteer Fire Department during a sports event this month.

When Perkins County plays host to Ogallala on Thursday, Dec. 20, a half-time free throw shooting contest during the boys basketball game will entertain the crowd and raise funds to give emotional and financial support to the fire department for its unselfish service to the area.

Sponsored by the Grant Lions Club and seven other clubs, the shoot out involves a representative from each club being allotted one minute of free throws.

"This event is designed to be a statement of appreciation and financial boost to the Grant Volunteer Fire Department, whose members have served relentlessly, especially during this past dry summer," said Lions member Ron Patrick, First Vice Dist. Gov. of Dist. 38L.

Pledges for a favorite competitor's completed basket attempts can be made ahead of time and proceeds from baskets made during the shoot out will be collected and presented to the fire department. There will also be a free-will donation jar available for those not making pledges ahead of time.

The shooters are the leaders (or leader-designated) of the various service clubs supporting the event.

The organizations represented and their shooters are as follows: Grant Lions Club President Ivan Regier, Grant Rotary Club President John Long, Fire Chief Don Softley, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority (Preceptor Alpha Psi) with Toni Wyatt as designated shooter; Beta Sigma Phi Sorority (Xi Gamma Psi) with Jayson Bishop as designated shooter; Grant Chamber of Commerce with Ryan Potts as designated shooter and American Legion with Mike Mayer as designated shooter.

A variety of basketball prowess is represented in these shooters.

Regier has not played the sport recently, but he played Madrid High School and Freeman Academy ball as a youth.

Long was a member of the 1968 Boys' State Championship team.

Chief Softley played four years of high school ball from 1968 to 1972.

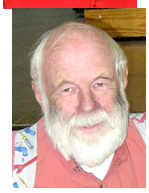
Toni Wyatt says that even though she is quite tall, she never played basketball and she may be calling on Coach Pritchett for mentoring.

Bishop played basketball all four years in high school and later was a Grant Plainsmen assistant coach. When asked about his talents, his response was, "They let me stay on the team."

Potts, considered a pure shooter in his Wheatland High School days, achieved all-state basketball honors and later played on a town team for a few years.

Mayer, an avid player in high school, is currently an assistant basketball coach for the Perkins

County Lady Plainsmen.

Volunteers from the various clubs supporting the event will serve as ball retrievers, time keepers, score keepers, and ball organizers.

Make plans to attend an evening of basketball on Dec. 20th when the Plainsmen take on a local rival—with halftime entertainment in support of our local fire department personnel. Lots of fun and laughter will most likely be a part of this enjoyable and unique event.