

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

To a small but enthusiastic crowd Monday night, Storyteller Rita Paskowitz of Omaha imparted stories of childhood and sharing, while making people giggle.

Paskowitz first endeared herself to the audience at the Chase County Schools (CCS) auditorium by personally meeting everyone, even the children present.

She said everyone is a storyteller. "Who's been late to something?" she asked. "You create a story to cover your rear end, don't you?"

"Or, have you ever been in a room and someone says 'Does this make me look fat?'" The white lie that follows is storytelling, she pointed out.

Paskowitz went on to tell the story of her shyness in fifth grade; "Stephanie's Pony Tail," in which she got the entire audience, including 70-something men, to hold their noses and point their fingers, chanting "ugly, ugly, ugly," and "The Giving Tree," among others.

The storyteller, who performed several times for CCS elementary students Monday, was brought to Imperial by the Chase County Area Arts Council, and was sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council.