

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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23rd in a Series on Arnold's
“Young at Heart”
Residents

They've a Story to Tell

At almost 100 years old, Doris Bowers is still on the go.

By Darlene Rimpley

She has lived in Arnold for 89 years, in the same house for 72 years, has a memory you wouldn't believe, and she is 99 years and 2 months old.

Doris Shields Lynch Bowers was born on October 20, 1919, in a sod house west of Arnold to James and Alvina Shields.

They lived north of Arnold and near Gandy until Doris was 2-years-old, when they moved to Englewood, Colorado, and then to Ft. Morgan, Colorado.

While living in Ft. Morgan, Doris's father passed away, leaving his wife with eight children: Molly, Donald (Mutt), Doris, Chuck, Lois, Jack, Thelma, and Berniece, with the oldest being 15.

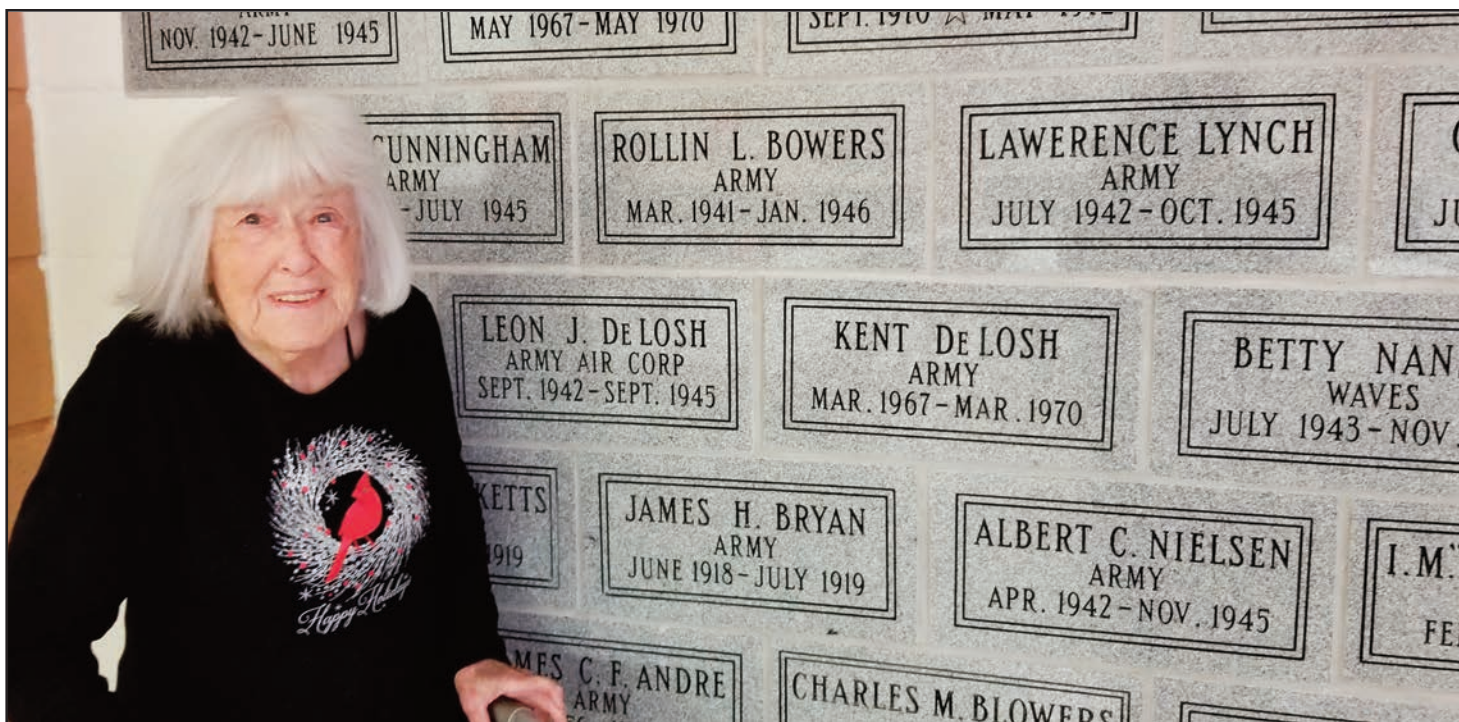
The fatherless family packed up the bare essentials, which did not include toys or dolls, and moved back to Arnold.

Doris remembers that the first house they lived in upon their return to Arnold is the house that is now the third one north of the Catholic Church. They had a number of more moves, and she recalls each one of them.

A special memory of their first Christmas back in Arnold was that the home economics girls in the high school brought them gifts of dominoes and marbles.

Alvina took on many jobs to support the family, which included cleaning, laundry, ironing, and cooking in cafes. And she “employed” her girls to help with many of these jobs.

One of Doris's jobs was to clean at the home of the Steburgs, who ran and



Photo/Diana Coleman

At Arnold's Legion Hall, Doris Bowers stands next to the engraved memorial blocks of her late husbands, Lawrence Lynch and Rollin Bowers. She is a proud and active supporter of all veterans to this day.

lived at the funeral home. It so happened that they had to bring in a dead body while she was there. She never went back! Another distasteful job was working for a Mrs. Robinson, who separated milk, and Doris “got to” clean the separator. She babysat for 10 cents an hour. The parents would go to a dance and not get home until the wee hours of the morning, and Doris said she was happy to earn a dollar.

Doris graduated from Arnold High in 1938 with a class of 29 members, and she is the only living member of the class.

A blind date was arranged by Bill Hickey for Doris and his cousin, a young man from Oconto, Nebraska, named Lawrence Lynch. Their first date to Gandy to the dance led to many dances, movies, and finally, a wedding on April

7, 1942.

Lawrence was soon called into the Army, which led to a series of homes for Doris. She got to be with him in Tennessee, Georgia and California before he was sent overseas.

While in Georgia, Doris went to work in a laundry - after all, her mother had trained her well - and she needed something to do during the day. Her first job was washing handkerchiefs, which were popular, and Doris wanted to do a good job. The boss thought she was much too slow, so he moved her over to the mangle, where she and another girl were doing sheets. Somehow, the sheets went in crooked and ended up with a deep crease in them. This time, the boss moved her and the other girl clear out of the laundry by firing them.

While Lawrence was in Tennessee,

and Doris had returned to Arnold for a time, she gave birth to a son, Ronnie, who did not live. Lawrence was granted a three day pass, which of course, was not enough time for him to get home to see his baby son one time. When Lawrence was sent overseas, Doris returned to Arnold. Lawrence received his discharge in October of 1945.

Fun Fact About Doris

Doris was born in a sod house and was one of eight children. Is it surprising that she is an active member of the Sod House Society?

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If you want to know the history of Arnold, just ask Doris, who was born here in 1919, and remembers most everything.

Long-time bank employee honored at retirement party



Diane Conner was honored on her retirement from Pinnacle Bank last Friday, after 40 years of serving as a teller.

By Janet Larreau

After a big send-off last Friday at Pinnacle Bank, Arnold resident Diane Conner is officially “off the clock.”

“I started working as a babysitter and house cleaner in 5th or 6th grade, and have worked ever since,” said Diane, who celebrated both her 65th birthday and retirement with bank staff and customers.

Diane, who describes herself as an “old timer” at the bank, said it's a blur of the exact day she started as a teller at

Arnold State Bank, but she's guessing about 40 years. Only in her mid-20s', she took Verna Forrester's place behind the counter, working with Donna Keyser, Verla May, Geraldine Webb, and owners Ken Wehrman and Ray Koubek.

She's seen a lot of changes in the banking industry through the decades, going way back to when customers could use what were called counter checks.

“When I started, I didn't even know how to use a ten key. We didn't have computers. We used typewriters and comptometers with a hand pull, calcu-

lated interest by hand, posted each individual check, organized and mailed statements, and looked up account numbers in a book and balances on a ledger sheet” she said. “When the bank got a computer, all the tellers shared one. Today each teller has their own computer.”

When Arnold State Bank sold to Lexington State Bank, all of the work was processed at Lexington and a courier was used daily.

“Before the bank became tied to the Op Center in Gretna we would work ‘til the wee hours of the night on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day to cut and send all the statements to each customer. Updating to computers and having the statements sent out from Gretna relieved us of this annual duty.”

Pinnacle Bank acquired the Arnold branch in December of 1988.

Flash forward to 2018, and Diane said the customer flow for tellers has been cut down tremendously because of the

night drop, ATMs and online access.

“Customers used to have to call or visit the bank during banking hours directly for information concerning their accounts. It's amazing what they can do now,” she said.

Even though the customer flow decreased, Diane said the tellers are actually busier now than they were due to on-going FDIC regulations and restrictions.

Diane said she thought that when her three kids graduated from high school, she would have all kinds of time, but it's been a whirlwind with family.

“At age 65, I'm pleased to be able to take advantage of retiring,” she said. “I am going to miss the people, young and old.”

Diane said she would like to thank the community for the opportunities she has been given during her time as a bank employee, and wishes Pinnacle Bank in Arnold well in the future.



Photo/Janet Larreau

A different means of transport

The wind is howling at 40 mph, several inches of snow is drifting, and the streets are a sheet of ice. Need some groceries? This mystery man took off on a rare means of transport in Arnold last Thursday, bundling up, strapping on skis and heading to the store. *Sentinel* staff spied him as he was moving at a good pace north past BrewBakers and captured the never-before-seen moment.