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They've a Story to Tell



Lois Johnson checks reservations at Arnold's Winsome Inn & Suites on Friday of last week. At the age of 78, she is gainfully employed, on the go and a big supporter of the town. "Lois spoils the guests, and they come back," said one resident. (Janet Larreau photo)

By Darlene Rimpley

Living in 14 different locales, working in the school system from sponsoring pep club, teaching first and second grades, Title I, and just being a substitute teacher, has made up the biggest share of Lois Johnson's 78 years. Add to that two summers of taking doctorate courses and as much travel as could be worked in, and we would have to say that Lois has had "quite a life."

Lois was born in Denver, Colorado, where her dad was stationed in the service. Ensuing transfers took the family to Boise, Idaho; Vancouver, Washington; and McCook, Nebraska, (yes, there was a military base at McCook), where her father finished out his military service.

Her dad passed away when Lois was in the fourth grade. When her mother remarried, they moved to Hayes Center, and operated a telephone service, where Lois also worked and "knew everything about the telephone business."

A young, first-time teacher came to Hayes Center to teach in the elementary school. During Lois' senior year there were four girls who were looking for a ride to Palisade to a basketball game. Somehow, Lois is not quite sure how, they got a ride with the elementary teacher. And the rest is history. Lois and Lynn Johnson soon began dating and were married that summer.

Lois took normal training while in high school and received a lifetime teaching cer-

tificate. Lynn was teaching on a permit, which was granted in those days. They moved to Maywood where Lynn taught seventh and eighth grades, and Lois taught first and second. They lived there for four years, where their son, Oren, was born.

Their next teaching experience was at Maxwell, where Lois was pep club sponsor, and Lynn taught in the elementary grades. They stayed there only one year.

Their next teaching experience was at Arnold - the first of three. Lynn was teaching in the elementary school, and since their three children (they had added Suzan and Jo by this time) were small, Lois stayed home with them, but did do a little substituting.

After three years at Arnold, they were in Anselmo for five years, in Cheney, Kansas, for seven years and back to Arnold in 1975. Lynn had earned his principal credentials by this time and became the Arnold principal, teaming up with Superintendent Glen Troyer. They stayed for five years, in which time their children all became AHS graduates.

Next came moves to Sutherland, Hershey and in 1989, Sargent. Lynn served as superintendent at all three schools.

This was the time when funding was cut to schools, and budgets were being cut to the bare minimum. Arnold was looking for a new superintendent, and Lynn came up with a solution. He officially retired and offered his unpaid services

as joint superintendent to Sargent and Arnold. He drove back and forth from Sargent to Arnold for two years, and with his health failing, he retired from school work.

During all of these years and all of these moves, Lois had continued her teaching duties. In 1982 and 1983, the Johnsons spent the summers in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where they both earned their doctorates.

Lynn passed away in 2003, and to keep busy, Lois continued in the Title I program in Sargent for three years, as well as having an exchange student in her home for those three years.

The Johnsons had purchased a house for Lois' mother in Sargent, so she was near for 14 years. Lois' mother passed away in the spring before Lynn in September.

In 2006, Lois moved again, and where else but Arnold? To keep busy, she managed the Winfield Inn for a time, and with her daughter, Suzan, took an extended trip to Georgia to see her younger brother and to California to visit a sister, returning to Arnold to go to work again.

She was asked to help Cam and Fern Hall in their home, dispensing medications, cooking and anything else she could do. After Cam passed away, she stayed on half days helping Fern. She took another "half-day" job when Holly Hornung Remund asked her to be the on-call person at the newly reopened Winsome Inn, where she continues today. Her duties are mainly to register guests,

Lois and the .22

The house they lived in at Maxwell was right next to Highway 30, with the railroad just on the other side. One night, when they returned home from an out-of-town basketball game, Lois was dropped off at their house, along with Oren, while Lynn went on down to the school to see that the boys all got gone okay. When she walked into the house, she heard someone walking around upstairs but didn't think too much about it, because they never locked their doors, and told people to "come on in and make themselves at home." She called out several times, but no one answered. She put Oren down on the couch and reached into the closet and grabbed Lynn's .22 rifle, stood at the bottom of the stairs and hollered up several more times telling the person to come down. She could still hear the footsteps, but no one appeared. Lynn came in shortly and grabbed the gun. They found that the person had slipped out a back way. The only thing they could find missing was fruit out of a bowl that they had on their table.

but she does do laundry, and if she can sneak it in, a little cleaning. Since Fern Hall had moved to the Callaway rest home in 2014, Lois now spends her time at the Inn.

Lynn and Lois did a lot of traveling, making it to Alaska, Hawaii and Mexico and many of the other 48 states. They liked to go on the less traveled roads and stop at cafés along the way to visit with the locals.

Lois enjoys visiting with her children and grandchildren as much as possible, even though distance separates them some. Oren and his wife, Sonya, live in Sargent, and their two sons live in Oregon. Suzan and her

son live in Augusta, Georgia, and Jo and her husband, Gary Crow, live in Arnold. Their children live in California, Colorado, Lincoln and North Platte. Lois has seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Lois says her faith has kept her going all these years. She is active in the First Baptist Church and in Arnold Chamber, and likes to help out wherever she can. She plans on continuing at Winsome Inn as long as her health allows (and she says, "as long as Holly will keep her"). She will continue to travel as much as she can and "just enjoy life."

Lois will visit with "anyone"

On a recent trip to California, they went by way of New Mexico and stopped for breakfast at Tucumcari. When they walked into the café, Lois saw a man with a tray standing by the door, and she spoke to him. Since the booths were all full, and one couple was sitting at a table in the middle of the room, they took another table. After they got settled in, they looked around and discovered that the man at the door was a statue and the people in the booths were actually just profiles painted on the walls. Actually, there was only the one couple and themselves in the café.

They got to visiting with the other couple, and the man informed them that he was in the Chamber of Commerce. He asked them if they knew how Tucumcari received its name, and when they said no, he proceeded to tell them.

As the story goes, an Indian tribe lived on one side of a mountain, and they needed to move to the other side. The Indian chief's wife had gained much weight over the years, and she said she could not walk over the mountain. The chief looked at a couple of his warriors, motioned to them, and said, "tu-cum-cari." Thus the name.

Schachers will Take Over Fresh Floral Services

After the recent closing of DownHome Emporium, Terence and Shavonne Schacher announced last week that they will be taking over fresh floral services in the Arnold area.

Shavonne said that the couple does plan to move their business into the now vacated building in the next few weeks, but until details are worked out, they will be operating out of the building that Shavonne uses as a photography studio at 110 West Arnold Ave. (on Highway 92).

The Schachers will use Chelsea Hershey's supplier and will have fresh flower bouquets, candy bouquets and cards available for Valentine's Day and will be able to provide floral services for funerals.

The temporary location will be open Thursday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or customers may call Shavonne at 308-636-6017 after hours.

TeamMates Mentors Honored Last Week

In connection with National Mentoring Month being celebrated in January, the Arnold Chapter of TeamMates mentoring program recognized all mentors during halftime of the girls basketball game on Thursday, January 22. The mentors were presented a small token of gratitude and a handwritten note from coordinators Jessica Phillips and Leron Bierman.

Mentors were recognized by their years of participation.

This is the third year of the program in our school, and it has grown from 11 the first year to a current high of 38 matches this year. Jessica is still looking for eight mentors to match with students who have requested to be part of the program. Let her know if you are interested!

Funds Available for Rehabilitation of Rental Properties

Funds are available to assist the owners of rental property to rehabilitate and improve the health and safety of their rental units.

These no-interest loans are available to property owners who agree to and meet the qualifications of this new housing program. Both private landlords and housing authorities are eligible to apply for these funds to repair rental units.

These funds are available to owners of rental property within CNHD's 17-county re-

gion, which includes the counties of Blaine, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Hamilton, Holt, Howard, Keya Paha, Loup, Merrick, Rock, Sherman, Valley and Wheeler.

For more information, or to apply for these rental rehabilitation funds, contact Judy Petersen at 402-340-0106. More information about this rental rehabilitation program is available on the CNHD website at: www.cnhdhome.org/programs.

Silent and Live Auction Added to Dailey Benefit

It was announced just last week that a silent and live auction will be held during the benefit for Alan and Becky Dailey set for Friday, January 30, at the Arnold Community Center.

A pulled pork dinner will be served from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The silent auction table and a live auction will be held at the end of the dinner.

To donate items for either the live auction or silent auction, call Atkins Auctions at 308-530-9012 or Kim at Nebraska Farmhouse Antiques at 308-530-5801. Items may be dropped off at Farmhouse Antiques or Atkins Auction office or will be picked up.

Items donated so far include: a large framed Drone aerial photo on canvas of Arnold's SORC Parade; a smaller Drone aerial photo on canvas of the Arnold water tower; \$250.00 worth of Reed's Food Center gift certificates; two, \$75.00 gift food baskets; and a large prime

rib.

Dailey was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2010. He has undergone treatment for cancer in his bones and is now undergoing treatment for cancer on his brain. After finishing another round of radiation, he will undergo chemotherapy.

Conference Art Show is Saturday

Several Arnold students will enter exhibits in the Conference Art Show this Saturday, January 31, at Mid-Plains Community College. The art show will be open to the public from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sixteen schools make up the MNAC.

Babies Feature Set for Next Week

Readers can look forward to the annual "Babies" feature appearing in the February 5 issue.

Letters Sought for Alumni News

With President Chelsea Hershey at the helm, Arnold High School Alumni officers have been meeting monthly to plan a great banquet and program for May of 2015.

The Alumni News will be mailed out in mid-April, giving all of the details. A big part of The News are letters written by alumni, filling everyone in on what has been happening in their lives since graduation. Letters from honored class alumni are especially sought.

Janet Larreau is this year's newsletter editor. Letters can be sent via e-mail to: arnoldsentinel@gpcom.net with the subject line Alumni News, or mailed to: The Arnold Sentinel, PO Box 136, Arnold NE 69120. Deadline to submit is March 15. The earlier letters are sent, the better.