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“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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A Flag is Raised to Honor Special Couple The Late Bob and Shirley Reed Remembered

By Leta Connell

They say it takes a village to raise a child. In the village of Arnold, a very special couple had a huge part in the lives of many children. Robert “Bob” and Shirley Reed were that couple.

Bob served in the United States Navy from 1951 to 1955 and served in the Korean War. He served on the “Goodwill” tour traveling to many other countries to promote Americanism and support of the United States of America. In 1955 Bob married Shirley (Bolejack) and to this union two children were born: Mitch and Susie (Bieleberg).

Bob went to college at Peru State. He played football at Peru and graduated with his teaching degree. Later, Bob also attained his masters degree and a specialists degree from Kearney State College.

Susie shared, “Dad was a teacher and a football coach in Stapleton, Nebraska, for 15 years. He was awarded Nebraska Coach of the Year in 1971 after an undefeated State Championship football season.”

In 1972 Bob became principal at Arnold Public Schools. This is where history began between the Reeds, the Arnold community and its youth. Six years later, in 1978, he accepted a new position as superintendent. Many students passed through those doors, always with Mr. Reed watching over them until they stepped out as a high school graduate. Bob retired in 1995, but not exactly. Upon retirement he became the Custer County superintendent, making the daily drive to Broken Bow.

Not only was Bob Reed devoted to education, he was involved in many organizations: American Legion, VFW, Guiding Star Girl Scout Council of Nebraska, Board Member of ESU10 in Kearney 2007-2015, Ne-



Susie Reed, daughter of the late Bob and Shirley Reed, stands next to the new flag pole erected on the west side of the school. The plaque, located at the bottom, reads: “For the Love of Our Country, Our School...For Love of Arnold, Nebraska. Robert (Bob) Reed - 1932-2015 & Shirley Reed - 1935-2013. Dedicated November 11, 2016.” (Leta Connell photo)

braska Rural Community Association, Nebraska Coaches Association, Nebraska Council of School Administrators, Nebraska State School Board Association and Nebraska Activities Association. He was also a past Legion commander in Arnold. Bob was

a referee for high school football and basketball, officiating many games with his good friend, Mike Harvey.

Bob was one of the founders of the NRCSA, and both Bob and Mike were very involved in the initial organization of NRCSA.

NRCSA was originally created to help the smaller schools (primarily class D) get involved in the state organization by giving rural schools a voice. At the time, the state association was catering to the needs of larger schools.

NRCSA has changed over the years but is still thriving today. In fact, larger schools began to see the “good things” that the NRCSA was doing and wanted to join.

“Bob Reed was very supportive and dedicated to Arnold Schools and its staff,” stated Mr. Harvey. Bernice Crow added, “As a coach and teacher, Mr. Reed always ‘had my back.’”

Shirley also had a big impact on the community. While living in Arnold, she was employed at the Stapleton Bank and Farm Credit Services of Arnold. They were both active members of the Arnold United Methodist Church, taking part in many church functions over the years. Bob and Shirley eventually moved to Kearney after living in Arnold from 1978 to 2006.

With the passing of her parents (Shirley in 2013 and Bob in 2015), daughter Susie contacted Mrs. Crow about a memorial. After many texts, emails and phone calls, and with the help of Dr. Lewis, Mr. Morgan and the Arnold School Board, it was decided that a flag would be placed on the west side of the school. Extensive landscaping has improved the whole functionality of that area, and memorial funds provided by Susie and her brother’s families have made the new display possible.

Veteran’s Day was the perfect day to dedicate this lasting memorial to Robert “Bob” and Shirley Reed. After the Posting of the Colors, the crowd gathered on the west side of the school to watch as Susie raised the flag for the first time in memory of her parents.

What a perfect tribute to a man and his wife who spent many years of their lives contributing their time and talents to Arnold Public Schools and the Village of Arnold.

Arnold Foundation Fundraiser is Saturday

More auction items are coming in for this Saturday’s annual Arnold Community Foundation Fundraiser Auction. The event, to be held November 19 at the community center, will begin with a social hour from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., the meal will be served at 7:00 p.m., and the presentation of philanthropy awards and the auction will start at 8:00 p.m.

Please turn to page 2 for more information on how to obtain tickets. An updated list of auction items can be found on page 4 of this issue.



Mona Crow was the 400th voter to sign in at the Legion Hall during the November 8 General Election. (Rose Bierman photo)

Very High Turnout Reported for General Election

Turnout for the General Election mirrored that of the rest of the country on November 8, with poll workers keeping busy at the Arnold Legion Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Poll worker Rose Bierman reported that voters started arriving at 7:30 a.m. but had to be turned away until the polls opened at 8:00 a.m.

“Many voters arrived eight minutes before the polls were open and had to wait,” she said.

Within the first 12 minutes, 25 people had voted, and by noon, 209 had cast their ballots. The end tally was 411 voters. Voting booths were full several times during the day.

“We had never seen anything like it,” Rose said, speaking for other poll workers.

First-time voters were: Ashton Weinman, Austin Redden, Tanner Bowers, Tyler and Alexa Long, Tory and Carma Edwards and Colby Crow.

Mona Crow received a special reception from the workers, as she was the 400th voter.

Forty-seven registered voters voted early, and two voters were turned away for ineligible status.

The percentage of voter turnout and results on the local ballot can be found on page 6.

Over 200 People Enjoy Saturday’s Housing Tour



Tables in the community center were almost filled for Saturday’s Housing Tour luncheon. After the meal, the crowd toured three homes and Arnold’s one-room schoolhouse. (Renee Bubak photo)

Chamber had a very successful fundraiser last Saturday, as some 200 people, not only from Arnold, but from several area towns as well, purchased tickets and attended the well advertised salad luncheon and housing tour.

After the meal, where tables were filled almost to capacity, the following couples

opened up their homes:

Gary and Kelli Blevins have combined old and new in their home west of town. Of interest on this tour was that the old house that had been torn down on October 20, 2015, to make room for the new Heritage home was an old schoolhouse that had been added on to. Gary had lived in this same house all

his life, and Kelli moved in as a permanent resident in 1981. During construction the couple lived in a camper until March, when the new house was finished enough to start moving into. The house was finally completed on November 7 of this year.

The 3,600-square foot house, including a full basement, was constructed using

unique elements from the old house and barns. Family antiques are also a feature, in addition to a painting by Sulin Best of the couple’s cattle and pasture, and twisted wood tables made by William Horst.

Gary and Margaret Ann Mills moved into their new home in May of 2013, following Margaret Ann’s retire-

ment from Arnold Public Schools. With the girls all grown up and gone from the area, the couple wanted a home that would allow them to live on one floor, but also have another floor that could be used to accommodate their four adult daughters, husbands, and seven grandchildren when they travel home.

The Heritage home is a ranch-style cabin with a modern floor plan, featuring a combined kitchen, dining and living area. Fifteen foot ceilings with windows from floor to ceiling allow for lots of natural light and an expansive view of the countryside at its location east of Arnold. Pine beams hauled in from Colorado, along with knotty alder accents, acacia wood flooring and a rustic, knotty wooden mantle complement the cabin feel of the home.

Gary and Merri Jo Halstead purchased their 1920’s two-story home on North Carroll Street in 2013 and began working on it soon after. Their style is cottage and French country. The Halsteads, who have since turned the home into a bed & breakfast, did almost all of

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