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The Arnold Sentinel

Peterson will Open New Downtown Business May 1

Traci Peterson announced last week that she will be opening her new business, “Flower Girl Floral & Boutique” on May 1.

Traci purchased the downtown building that formerly housed DownHome Emporium from Chelsea Hershey, and has been painting and redecorating the store “under wraps,” with the windows covered until reveal day.

Traci has over 20 years of retail sales experience with nearly five years of managing The Oak Tree gift shop in North Platte. The shop was voted North Platte’s #1 gift shop for two consecutive years. Traci said that opening a store in Arnold will allow her to be her own boss.

The store will be a floral shop specializing in fresh flowers, as well as silk flowers. It will also be a full service gift shop, offering custom gift wrapping, cards, jewelry and accessories for all occasions. Traci plans to also offer a small amount of home decor.

“I’m planning on letting the



Traci Peterson, who plans to open her new store in downtown Arnold on May 1, has her new logo all ready to go.

customers tell me what they want,” said Traci.

Traci was born and raised in Arnold and has always lived nearby. She and husband Shawn and 10-year-old son Samuel live in North Platte. Traci will be commuting to Arnold to run the business.

“Arnold has always been home to me,” she said.

Regular store hours will be Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., although she will be available to provide floral services for funerals at any time.

Roll-off Container Ready for Free Disposal Thru April

April has been designated as Community Clean-up Month. A roll-off container has been placed at the Village street shop for residents’ convenience when cleaning up their property. The village asks everyone to please stack items inside the roll-off container. There will be no charge for village residents to use this roll-off container during April.

Items that will not be accepted include construction rubble, re-

frigerators, freezers, batteries, computers and household hazardous waste.

A reminder to be sure and get your name on the list for Community Clean-Up Day on Monday, April 27. A schedule will be made for volunteers from the school, and local organizations to help residents with their clean-up projects. To get your name on the list, call the village office or contact Melody Jennings.

Elementary Dinner Theater Set for April 9

A large cast of Arnold elementary students will present “The Mysterious Case of the Missing Ring,” Thursday, April 9, in the school auditorium. The lasagna dinner will start at 5:30 p.m., and the play at 6:30 p.m., or whenever the dinner is complete. Co-directors are Berni Crow and Ashley Meyer.

Tickets are available from any cast member.

Kindergarten Round-Up is April 20

Arnold Public School will hold Kindergarten Round-Up on Monday, April 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Parents will meet at 10:00 a.m., while students participate in several activities.

According to revised Nebraska law, children must reach the age of five years on or before July 31. Exceptions may be considered on a case by case basis. For more information, call the school at 848-2226, ext. 3.

4th in a Series on Arnold’s “Young at Heart” Residents

By Darlene Rimpley

Dot Gast has roots deeply engrained in the Arnold area. Her grandparents, Walter and Sophia Lindholm and Tim and Bertha Mae Atkins, both came to Arnold in the early 1900s.

The Lindholms were from Sweden. In those days, all Swedish men had to serve in the Swedish Navy for three years. Dot’s great-grandfather was lost at sea while serving in the Navy and his wife remarried. The family came to the United States in 1888, homesteaded in Eddyville in the 1890s, and then Walter came to Arnold around 1918. He bought the farm that is now owned by John Nelson in Mills Valley, and built the house that still stands there in 1919.

The Atkins moved around to many areas before coming to Arnold sometime after 1910.

Dorothy Lindholm was born in 1928, the daughter of Roy and Edythe Atkins Lindholm, in Arnold’s first hospital. The hospital was operated by Mary Tryon and was located in a house on what is now 704 North Walnut Street and does not resemble the two-story building it was in those days.

The family lived in the home built by Dot’s grandfather, and Dot attended Mills Valley School. As they did in those days, families moved in and out of the area, so several sets of kids attended the school at different times: three Seda children, Delores Layton and the children of Les and Sophie Crow, along with Dot and her sister, Janice.

She remembers good neighbors. Chris Ballner was one. He decided that Dot and Janice needed to ride on a train, so he put them on the motor in Arnold. They rode to Logan, which was at that time a store and post office ran by Lee and Lena Sargent, and Chris was there to pick them up and bring them home.

In 1940, they moved to the farm were Blaine Hagler now lives, and in 1942, they moved into Arnold into a house that Dot’s father bought and which Edythe lived in until her death

They’ve a Story to Tell



Family history is important to Arnold resident Dot Gast. Framed portraits of her ancestors are placed throughout her home at Riverview Apartments. (Kendra Veirs photo)

“Stuck, huh?”

A story she heard from her parents was that one time Roy and Edyth, along with another couple, were on their way to Dunning on the then sandy cow trails of sort in a Model T. As often happened, the car got stuck in the sand, so the guys got out, and with the shovel that was part of the tools in a car in those days, were trying to dig the car out. A man on a horse rode up to them and said, “Stuck, huh?” in salty language I will not include here. Roy said, “No, we’re burying it.”

in 2000.

When she was 14, Dot began working at the Rialto Theatre as an usher for Mr. and Mrs. U.A. Brown. Along with that job, she also worked at cafés for Claude and Belle Pierce and Doc and Marge Corbin; was a telephone operator and worked for Anita Bonta; and worked at Crawley’s Drug Store. She said she made enough to buy her own clothes and have spending money.

She graduated from Arnold High School in 1946 and went to Denver, Colorado, to attend business school. Upon completion of that schooling, she worked at Montgomery Ward and an electrical company as bookkeeper in both places. She also worked at a hospital for mental and alcoholic patients.

At the latter job, she recalls that one time a woman brought her alcoholic husband in to be treated. All of the paperwork was completed and then, as was required, they took away his pint of whiskey, which had only a little drank out of it. The wife left, but in a few minutes she was back, requesting that she be given the whiskey, as “that is good stuff!”

After Dot’s two children, Cindy and Kim, were born, she became a stay-at-home mom. As they were growing up, they became very involved in several activities. Cindy loved swimming and there were several practices a week, along with the swim meets and the synchronized swim team performances. Kim was into music, so there were lessons, practices with the three bands he was in, concerts and other perform-

ances. In Denver you just did not allow your children to walk to school by themselves, so if there were no other children going their way, she would see that they got to school and home safely.

Dot moved back to Arnold in 1976 and established a yarn shop, “The Stitching Place.” She ran it for several years and then she and Odeen Beeken went into partnership when they bought the clothing store from Bob and Carolyn Foran, which is the corner store now occupied by several businesses under the hotel. After five years, Odeen left the business and Dot continued on in the same location until she moved over to a smaller place in the north part of the former lumber yard. She retired in 2001.

Dot had acquired a much loved friend, a Pomeranian named Mitzi, who accompanied her to most places, including work. When Mitzi died in 2005, Dot moved to Riverview. She sold her car so she does not make it to one of her favorite places - the library - and has her groceries delivered. The library delivers book to her, and she enjoys her reading time.

Her daughter, Cindy, lives in Columbia, South Carolina, and works at a hospital doing sonograms. She visits once a year, and on her visit this year, she will be taking back a trunk - the biggest trunk I’ve ever seen - that belonged to Dot’s Grandmother Atkins.

Her son, Kim, lives at St. Cloud, Minnesota, and teaches music at St. Cloud State Univer-

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Miss Brown

Dot and her family came as often as possible to visit with her parents. One time, When Cindy was 10 and Kim was seven, they bought a Chihuahua from the neighbors across from her parents’ house. They had quite a time settling on the name, and finally came up with “Miss Brown.” When it was time to go back to Denver, Dot took the children on the train, and the children bid Miss Brown good-bye to go back with their daddy, with instructions to take good care of her. Dot, Cindy and Kim were riding along on the train with a number of other riders in the car. All at once, Kim said, very loudly, “Momma, how do you think Daddy and Miss Brown are getting along?”



Adding Them Up

Clutching an egg, toddler Chloe Christiansen gets ready to add another find to her bucket at Saturday morning’s Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Arnold Chamber. The event drew a good crowd of kids and their parents to the city park on a beautiful spring morning. The Hunt was organized by the Arnold Ministerial Association and assisted by the National Junior Honor Society and included an interactive Easter story told by the Ministerial Association. Lucky Gold and Silver egg winners are pictured inside this issue. (Kendra Veirs photo)