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The Arnold Sentinel

They've a Story to Tell

5th in a Series on Arnold's
"Young at Heart"
Residents

By Darlene Rimpley

How does a girl from Lexington, Nebraska, meet a guy from Whitewright, Texas? Let's look into the background of Ruth Moritz and LV Conner to find out.

Ruth was born in Overton, Nebraska, but lived in the Lexington area on various farms while growing up. She was active in 4-H, taking cattle, sheep (the sheep had a regular feeding schedule morning, noon and night at the same time every day), and the usual girl projects. She won numerous Grand Champion Pen of Three awards at the State Fair. She graduated from Lexington High School in 1949, and then worked for the county superintendent and Lexington Mill and Elevator for two years doing secretarial and bookkeeping work.

Ruth decided she needed to go to college and get training in secretarial/business and chose the Catholic girls' college, Duchesne College in Omaha, which she attended for four years, earning her BA degree. During this time, she switched to education courses, deciding she would like to teach. During the last of her senior year, she sent out applications for a teaching position in different schools. Somehow (she thinks it was because her family was friends with the Philpots) one of her applications got into the hands of Albert Fuller, a relative of the Philpots, who was superintendent at Gandy, Nebraska. Mr. Fuller interviewed her in Lexington, and Ruth was hired.

During the summer after college graduation, Ruth and four friends worked at Yellowstone

Ruth and Cook meet and fall in love in Arnold



Always a southern gentleman, LV "Cook" Conner, holds the door for the love of his life, Ruth, as they enter the Arnold Community Center for their almost-daily walk. "His mom taught him well," said Ruth. (Kendra Veirs photo)

Park, where she was a cabin maid, did bookkeeping and directed tourists. (LV laughingly said that there might still be tourists wandering around Yellowstone because of her poor directions.) With summer over, Ruth moved to Arnold, where she would live in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Buck, former depot agents, at the home where Hazel Sheets now lives, while teaching Home Ec, typing

and shorthand at Gandy for the school year of 1956-'57. (That was the last year of high school at Gandy, and Ruth laughs that she closed the school.) She had no car, so Mr. Fuller picked Ruth and another teacher up, took them to school and brought them home.

LV Conner was born and raised in the Whitewright/Pilot Grove area of Texas. The son of a farmer, he, along with his

"A blizzard baby"

Ruth and Cook's first child, Marcia, was born in the middle of a blizzard in March, 1958, the last baby born in the Arnold hospital. The townspeople had tried several ways to keep the hospital open, but there were no Arnold doctors. Ruth and Cook were concerned and questioned whether the hospital would be operating when they needed it. W.B. Hagler brought a license to show Ruth, but it was specified as a "Home for the Aged and Decrepit."

On the day that Ruth decided the baby would make its appearance, a call was made to Dr. Chaloupka at Callaway, and he set out for Arnold riding on one of the pump cars on the railroad tracks. Harlan Olin had a Jeep, and he, Dee Croghan, City Police Officer Dick Henderson and Cook, set off on the river road to meet Dr. Chaloupka. The Callaway group got as far as the Chesley farm and could go no farther because of the drifts, and the Arnold people made it to the Finch ranch turnoff and could go no farther. Both started walking towards the other, a distance of at least a mile, met up, and walked back to the Jeep. Dr. Chaloupka came walking across that field looking like a giant polar bear.

An older man named Joe Henry was at the hospital - maybe on a permanent stay - and he was entranced with going to watch baby Marcia.

three brothers, learned early on the value of hard work. They did their own farming: cotton, corn and small grains in the summer time, and in the fall did custom harvesting of wheat and small grains. His dad owned a cotton gin, a machine which separates the cotton from the seeds and burrs in the cotton boll, and farmers brought their cotton to the Conners to be ginned. The cotton, after being "processed," would be packed into bales, which would weigh about 500 pounds. LV's older brother, JB, once threw his cap into the cotton when it was being baled, and he had a letter from Germany saying they had found his cap.

LV graduated from Whitewright High School, and then went to TCU (Texas Christian University) for one semester on a basketball scholarship. His college education was cut short when he was drafted into the US Army in 1945. Out of six siblings in the Conner family, all but one served in the service. A sister, Capitola, was not in the service, but the other five: JB (Yes, another one with only initials, but that was very common in the South.) (Army), Donovan (Army), Billy (Air Force, and he was stationed at McCook, Nebraska, for a time), LV (Army) and Martha Jo (Navy), served, but not at the same time.

LV was amazed at how his mother was able to write to all

five of her children, and she did so very often. "Cook" (as he will hereafter be known, and when asked how he got that nickname, said his uncle claimed that he called him that and called his cousin "Nuke" - thereby Cook and Nuke rhyme) was stationed at two camps in Texas, one in Missouri and one in New Jersey before being sent to the Pacific Theater. After his discharge in 1947 from Ft. Crowder, Washington, he worked in an iron foundry where they made cotton gin and John Deere parts for a time, and then went to work at a Phillips 66 oil field as a security guard and fireman. He was injured in an explosion there in 1951, and spent almost two years in the hospital.

In 1953 Cook's brother, Billy Conner of Arnold, Nebraska, who was in the Massey Harris dealership business, called and asked Cook if he would be interested in moving to Arnold and buying out Billy's partner, his father-in-law, W.B. Hagler. He thought it would be a good idea, and that fall became a Nebraska resident.

And now comes the catalyst of the Ruth and LV story: Marion Fuller, the wife of Albert Fuller, who hired Ruth to teach at Gandy, saw a single lady and an unattached man, and decided they should meet.

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Music Department Earns High Ratings at Districts

Twenty-one music students from Arnold High School, under the direction of music teacher Chrysanne Bailey, attended the District Music Contest hosted by Ord High School on Friday, April 24, 2015. Arnold took 10 entries, which received a total of four entries earning a rating of Superior (I) and six entries earning a rating of Excellent (II).

Specific results of the contest were as follows:

Receiving ratings of Superior were Claire Beshaler on her vocal solo, "Se tu ma'amì, se sospiri"; Grace Magill on her vocal solo, "Tu lo sai"; Morgan Eggleston on her saxophone

solo, "Minuet", by Mozart; and the Saxophone Quartet, comprised of Claire Beshaler, bari sax; Sadie Christensen, tenor sax; Jennifer Barraza, alto sax; and Morgan Eggleston, alto sax.

Receiving ratings of Excellent were Jennifer Barraza, vocal solo, "Sebben crudele"; girls' duet of Claire Beshaler and Grace Magill, singing "Remember Me"; girls' duet of Jennifer Barraza and Morgan Eggleston, singing "All the Pretty Little Horses"; girls' trio of Claire Beshaler, Grace Magill, Olivia Furne, singing "Old Joe Clark"; the girls' ensemble, Claire Beshaler, Grace Magill, Wei Qin Chua, Olivia Furne, Morgan

Eggleston, Sadie Christensen, Bobbi Barnes, Jennifer Barraza, singing "Shenandoah/He's Gone Away"; and the band, playing "The Thunderer" march by John Philip Sousa.

This year, the band is comprised of these students in grades 6-12: Kylee Lehmkuhler, Sam Cool, Jadeyn Bubak, Landyn Cole, Colby Streit, Jace Connell, Logan Coleman, Leighton Bubak, Cole Gracey, Tayten Eggleston, Anthony Olson, Jennifer Barraza, Morgan Eggleston, Sadie Christensen, Claire Beshaler, Sully Lewis, and Brenden Rivers.



Spring Clean-Up

Seventy-five Arnold students and eight teachers took the day off on Monday to tackle a list of chores, including raking lawns for residents and picking up trash. The school worked in cooperation with the village, Chamber, the American Legion and Rotary in what has become an annual spring clean-up day. Watch next week's *Sentinel* for more photos and a complete report on all that was accomplished by students and adults. (Melody Jennings photo)

Celebration Starts for Teacher Appreciation Week

The Arnold Parent Teacher Association (APTA) will be celebrating "UP" events during the annual teacher appreciation week starting May 4 through May 8.

Students, parents and the community plan to give all 37 faculty members two Thumbs UP for all they do. The entire community is encouraged to become involved and let them know we appreciate the efforts they make in our children's education.

The theme this year for Teacher Appreciation Week is "UP!" This should be fun for everyone. There will be a dress-up theme for each day. We encourage all the students, parents and community members to participate. There will be many surprises for the staff each day as the students work to the teachers day extra special.

Monday, May 4 is Batter UP day. Participants can wear baseball caps and baseball shirts/gear. Everyone is encouraged to put up yard signs or write messages on their windows or sidewalks to show support. Yard signs, window markers and sidewalk chalk can be picked up at the Arnold Winsome Inn & Suites anytime. Tuesday, May 5 is Wake UP day. Everyone at school and in the community is encouraged to come to school in their pajamas!

Wednesday, May 6 will be set as Giddy UP day. All activities will get everyone to cowboy UP on this day. Participants are asked to wear western clothes. Students will round-UP some

new school supplies to bring for their teacher and staff will be treated to a barbecue lunch.

Thursday, May 7 is Surf's Up day and the community and school grounds will be filled with sunglasses and sun hats.

Friday, May 8 everyone will plan to Dress UP in their nice clothes to show respect for their amazing teachers. Students and community members can bring a flower for the teachers, or a treat/candy bouquet to show appreciation to the teaching staff.

This will be the second year that the Arnold Parent Teacher Association has organized these activities. If you have any questions please feel free to call/text Cindy Tullis, event organizer at 308-530-2102, or any PTA member.

Walk for Life is Sunday

Residents are reminded that this Sunday, May 3, will be the annual Walk for Life to benefit the Women's Resource Center in North Platte. Participants will meet at the Baptist church on South Hwy 40 and the walk will be at the Arnold Recreation Area south of town. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m., and the walk starts at 2:00 p.m.

Arnold Walk for Life chairman John Phillips invites residents to come and enjoy the two-mile walk and meet some of the new life that has recently been born into the world, including "baby bump" Jack, Charlea and Jeremiah.