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(From left) Shayla Tickle, Ella Cool and Reagan Cool inside the brick slaughter house built and used by Frank Koubek for his downtown business, Koubek's Sanitary Market established in 1923. The girls' adventurous spirit led them to opening the door to the landmark located on property now owned by Shane and Lana Cool. Once inside, they found most equipment still intact.



Shayla, Ella and Reagan stand in front of the once mysterious building that is now their new "fort."

Landmark Provides Big Adventure for Arnold Girls

When Shane and Lana Cool purchased the Koubek property on the west edge of town, and moved into their newly-built home 1 1/2 years ago, their three girls were the perfect age to explore the 200-acre property.

"It's a special property. It's just a mecca of exploration. (The girls) are outside all the time if it's at all bearable," said Lana.

There's a river, natural springs, a pond, an old railroad bridge, great trees for climbing and hidden places to build forts. An abundance of wildlife also makes the acreage their home, including Blue Herrings, ducks, otters and beavers.

The two youngest girls - Reagan and Ella - have spent countless hours exploring the acreage, but the one place that they and their friends hadn't

worked up the nerve to go near was a mysterious brick building standing alone in a field about a quarter-mile from the house. Told that it was an old slaughter house, they avoided it - until one day, about a month ago, when curiosity got the best of them.

"We were driving around in the ranger, and I said, 'Let's go close to the slaughter house,'" said Reagan, age 11.

Riding along with Reagan was her friend, Shayla Tickle, also 11, and Reagan's little sister, Ella, who is 8.

"I said, 'Superstition, superstition, not looking in,'" said Shayla.

With Reagan leading the way, the girls stopped, crept up to the building and slowly opened the door.

"We just went for it! I felt kind of creeped out, but this place is awesome!" said Reagan, who last Friday was standing inside a historic building that few have ever entered but many have wondered about.

According to history, Frank Koubek constructed and used the brick building to butcher animals for his business - Koubek's Sanitary Meat Market, established in 1923. Located near the South Loup River, the building has become a familiar landmark when driving along Highway 92.

Inside, the girls found most everything intact from the days when Frank Koubek used the building: butcher knives, a crank and wooden pulley system, hooks, a sausage maker, a large knife sharpener, oil tanks, a sink and stove.

Reagan pointed out that when Grandma "Patty" (Parks), who was in charge of the girls that day, found out, she removed the knives.

Lana said the girls are fascinated and can't stay away from their new hide-a-way. They talk

about is everywhere they go. Reagan and Shayla's teacher, Mr. Neth, who is an amateur photographer, has taken several photos of the building, and describes it as "a photographer's dream."

"It's a grand adventure every time. Sometimes the girls hike there and sometimes they take the ranger," Lana said. "When I ask them where they are going, they respond with, 'The Slaughter House!' It's hilarious, but we really should come up with a different name because it's a little creepy."

They've swept, cleaned and scrubbed the sink, and now they play "fort" and pretend that a "bad guy" is holding them in there. Their dog Maggie loves it, too.

"We made a dog door for Maggie so she can come in and out, and she has a bed. We want to bring the horses here and play old school days," said Reagan.

Ella describes the building as the brick house from the story "The Three Little Pigs."

"Mom said to play in the garage, but we were looking for something better," she said.

"I felt really good about conquering my fear. We've actually found that it's a fun place to play war games," said Shayla.

As for the name, Reagan said they have come up with a new one.

Smiling, she said, "We call it 'The Dungeon of Doom.'"

166th AV Sergeant Major Retires After Three Decades, Plus

By Capt. Sean J. Davis, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 166th Aviation Brigade, Division West Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas — A Women's Army Corps enliste retired after over 33 years of military service Friday at the 25th Street Chapel, here.

"I've been everywhere," said Sgt. Maj. Susan Hunter, as she referenced a song by Hank Snow.

Hunter's career allowed her family to travel across the United States as she held a myriad of positions.

She began her career in the WAC during 1975 at a very different period of American history — before women were integrated into military formations. She now works as the 166th Aviation Brigade's operations sergeant major.

"As a young woman from Nebraska, I had dreamed of becoming a farmer/rancher's wife, not a career woman," said Hunter.

Hunter exceeded her expectations, leading a life and career that was only a dream of many women from her hometown of Arnold, Nebraska — population 510, as of the 2010 census. She progressed through the Army ranks from private to sergeant major.

As a sergeant major, she was charged with the health and welfare of Soldiers and equipment, as well as being a senior adviser to field grade officers and commanders.

"I'm so proud of my mother and she truly inspires me to follow in her footsteps and become a Chief Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force," said Air Force Master Sgt. Derrick Thomas, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Vehicles and Equipment Section, 91st Maintenance Operations Squadron, Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota and Hunter's son.

"Our families share all the hardships, know all of the fears and make personal sacrifices daily, all without rank, pay or recognition," said Col. Christopher E. Albus, 166th Aviation Brigade commander.

Albus revealed the Hunters' legacy and honored military family members as the real heroes of service.

"When Jeff said, 'I do,' I informed him he had a responsibility as the spouse of a Soldier," said Hunter. "To be a member of the Family Readiness Group."

Jeff took that challenge to heart and excelled as a volunteer and FRG advocate. Albus presented him with an Army Certificate of Appreciation signed by Army Chief of Staff General Ray T. Odierno, and an Army Certificate of Appreciation from the 166th for his support to his wife and countless unit FRG's over Hunter's 33-year career.

"Sgt. Maj. Hunter, your service to this great Army does not end here today. The scores of Soldiers you influenced and helped develop over your 33 years of service remain," said Albus. "They carry forward your standards, your examples

and marching in your footsteps into the Army of tomorrow. Old Soldiers never die, they just fade away."

Editor's note: Sgt. Maj. Hunter is the daughter of the late Eddie and Barb Deterding, and a 1975 graduate of A.H.S.

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Staff Sergeant Flint is the grandson of Robert and Jean Flint.



Sgt. Maj. Susan Hunter, 166th Aviation Brigade, addresses the audience during her retirement ceremony at the 25th Street Chapel at Fort Hood, Texas, Friday. (Photo by Capt. Sean J. Davis, 166th Aviation Brigade, Division West Public Affairs)

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SSG Flint Sets Tradition

On April 1, 2015, Sergeant Joshua R. Flint was promoted to Staff Sergeant during his promotion ceremony at Fort Hood, Texas, by Sergeant Major Susan K. Hunter. He is an infantry squad leader assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. Staff Sergeant Flint joined the United States Army February 24, 2010, and recently served with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, until transferring to Fort Hood in January 2015.

SSG Flint has set a tradition of being promoted by cousins. He was promoted to Sergeant by Sergeant Major (Retired) Shane A. Flint in 2013 and his cousin Sergeant Major Hunter promoted him to Staff Sergeant April 1, 2015, also marked the official retirement for Sergeant Major Hunter after more than 33 years of service.

Staff Sergeant Flint is the grandson of Robert and Jean Flint.



Sgt. Maj. Susan Hunter promoted her cousin, Sergeant Joshua R. Flint to Staff Sergeant on April 1 at Fort Hood, Texas.