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They've a Story to Tell



Working on puzzles is one of Elizabeth Elliott's favorite pastimes. A relatively new resident to Arnold, Elizabeth says there is no place else she'd rather live. (Kendra Veirs photo)

By Darlene Rimpley

Elizabeth Elliott is a new-comer to Arnold. Well, a new-comer compared to many of our senior citizens. An Arnold resident for six years come December 7, Elizabeth's "growing-up" years will bring back memories to many.

Elizabeth Messerschmidt was born on April 3, 1926, in Shelby, Iowa, the third of three children, with one more sister to follow. Her father, Richard, had come to the United States from Germany when he was three-years-old, and they settled in Iowa, where he met his wife, Kathryn. Her parents had also came from Germany, and were married in the United States. They were called Grossmutter and Grossfatter by their grandchildren.

The first farmhouse they lived in had two upstairs. One set of stairs went up in the dining

room and had one large room. The second set of stairs went up in the living room and had two bedrooms. Like most farm-houses in those days, there was no electricity, running water or indoor bathrooms. The second farmhouse they lived in had the same improvements.

The farmhouse sat on top of a hill with all of the outbuildings at the foot of the hill. When Elizabeth was about four years old, a tornado came through the country and wiped out all of the outbuildings but left the house standing.

Quickly nicknamed "Betty" by her mother (and known as Betty until she came to Arnold), she remembers the usual life of a farmwife. Her mother, besides raising a large garden and having a huge strawberry bed, dressed chickens, ducks and geese for the grocery store in town, and she used the feathers to make their pillows. On wash

day during the winter, they would pull the washing machine and tubs into the kitchen, heat the water on the wood cook stove and string lines throughout the house to hang the clothes to dry. In the summer they did have a washhouse to use.

Shelby had built a modern three-story school building in 1922, and it housed first through 12th grades at that time. Iowa was much more progressive than Nebraska in girls' sports, and Elizabeth played on the basketball team, which traveled to other towns for competition. The school mascot was the Cardinal, and its colors were red and black. She graduated from high school in 1944, and started her adventure in life.

She moved to Omaha where she went to Commercial Extension Business School and obtained a certificate as a bookkeeper. She then went to work for Omaha Cold Storage, where she worked on a machine that was like an oversized typewriter doing financial records.

Living in Omaha was a family affair. Her older sister had an apartment there that she shared with a roommate. The roommate moved out, so Elizabeth moved in. Her sister married, and her younger sister came to Omaha, and they shared the apartment. They rode a street car to work.

When she and her sisters

6th in a Series on Arnold's
"Young at Heart"
Residents

would go home to Avoca to visit her parents, they would ride the bus home, but when it was time to return to Omaha, they would go out by the railroad tracks and flag a train down. The train would stop, they would get on board, and ride back to Omaha.

It was at work where Elizabeth met her future husband, Verne Elliott. After two or three months, they began dating, and became engaged on Valentine's Day, 1948, and married on September 11.

Verne had served in the United States Navy and had several jobs after returning to Omaha. After their marriage they moved to Columbus, Nebraska, where he first worked for a hardware store and then for a gas company. They built a new home while living in Columbus. They moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he also worked for a gas company, until he got on as a steamfitter with the union. In the Omaha union, Verne worked on the Nebraska missile sites as a pipe fitter. After working for the union for 45 years, Verne retired.

In-between having six children, Elizabeth worked at several different jobs: bookkeeping, cleaning offices and a café in the evenings, doing laundry for a motel and working for Georgie Porgie Popcorn. Then she kind of fell into a job that she would have for over 21 years.

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Fireworks Display Set for the 4th of July

With the annual 4th of July Blow-Out community celebration now in the history books, residents can still look forward to horseshoe pitching and a fireworks display at Old Mill Park on the 4th.

Horseshoes will start at 7:00 p.m., and the fireworks display, sponsored by Sandhills Open Road Challenge, will start at dusk. Gunther's Fireworks will be setting the display off, and music will be provided by Westbrook Audio.

Although many will miss the fun 4th of July Blow-Out and its parade and events, residents can look forward to a Fall Festival this year organized by the Arnold Rotary Club.

Vehicle Accident Investigated West of Town

The Nebraska State Patrol investigated a two-vehicle accident at approximately 5:37 p.m., Friday, June 19.

A tractor pulling a hay rake, driven by Chad Delzer, 28, of Stapleton, was westbound on Highway 92, when it was struck from behind by a one ton dually Chevrolet pickup driven by Zackary Krzyzanawski, 17, of Stapleton, at mile marker 239. Krzyzanawski and a passenger in the pickup, Corbin Znaniacki, 17, of Stapleton, were taken to Great Plains Health in North Platte.

Delzer did not sustain any major injuries.

The pickup was estimated as a total loss. The tractor, owned by Eldon Christensen of Stapleton, sustained heavy damage.

On the Farm...

Betty helped during the haying season. To put the hay up in the haymow, they had a lift that would help take the hay up by leading the horse to pull the lift, and that was her job. She would lead the horse up, then back it up, and repeat the job as often as needed. She also helped pick corn with horse and wagons. The children had to milk before they went to school. If they weren't through with their milking by the time the school bus went by, they had to walk. They fed ears of corn to the hogs, and then had to pick up the cobs to use in the cook stove.

Dodge Holds Up Traffic



From the vantage point of the bed of a pickup, Dodge surveys his rural surroundings for any signs of a snake. Dodge showed his well-known snake killing abilities in downtown Arnold last week. (Courtesy photo)

Traffic headed east- and west-bound through Arnold was held up for a short while last week, as Dodge, an Australian Sheppard, went about the important business of killing a snake on Highway 92.

Holly Hornung-Remund had Dodge in the back of her pickup, when she parked north of the old Archie's Café building. Sara, from Arnold Insurance Agency, came out to take a picture of the vehicle, when the girls spotted a three foot bull-snake headed north across the highway. Sara ran back inside the insurance office, and meanwhile, Holly grabbed a shovel from the pickup and struck the snake.

"I knew it was a bullsnake. If it would have been a rattle snake, I probably wouldn't have

been so gutsy," said Holly.

Thinking she had killed it, Holly put the snake on the side rail of the pickup.

But it wasn't dead. Dodge spotted the snake and decided to finish it off - dragging it out onto the highway.

"Dodge is a notorious snake killer," said Holly. "We have three to four people call for Dodge when they need to kill snakes, and he has cornered a snake out at the house."

A few vehicles were held up in each lane of the highway, with some inching their way by as Holly tried to get Dodge under control. Once she had his attention, she told him to get back into the back of the pickup.

Dodge had succeeded in finishing the snake off. Holly said Rudy Vickers from Arnold Insurance Agency helped her load it up, and she hauled it out of town for disposal.

"I was pulling a horse trailer, and I wondered if the snake rode into town with us. I didn't think snakes were in town, but dad (Rich Hornung) said there can be," said Holly.

Atkins Receives PIA Agent of the Year Award



Chuck Micek (right) of Town & Country Insurance, of Pierce, Nebraska, presents Arnold Insurance Agency owner Joe Bob Atkins PIA Agent of the Year Award at a recent convention in Lincoln. (Courtesy photo)

The prestigious Agent of the Year Award was presented to Joe Bob Atkins, CIC, CPIA, AAI of the Arnold Insurance Agency in Arnold, Nebraska, during the 66th Annual Convention of the PIA. The convention was held June 2-3, 2015, at the Courtyard Marriott Haymarket in Lincoln.

Joe Bob became the principle owner of his agency in 2000. He was on the Grange Mutual Board for eight years, is a North Star Agent advisory council member and RCIS advisory council member.

He has been a member of the PIA National Crop Working

Group, the Legislative Committee and has served on the PIA Board, recently as the President of PIA. Joe Bob specializes in Crop, Large Agriculture and Commercial Accounts and is licensed in Crop, Life and Health, Property and Casualty, Sickness Accident and Health and Variable Contracts.

He is involved in the Arnold Economic Development Corporation and coaches youth baseball, football and wrestling. He enjoys spending time with his family and going camping and hunting. Congratulations to Joe Bob for winning this award!

County Receives Grant for Tire Recycling

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Director Jim Macy announced today that the state is awarding \$2.01 million to support 126 tire recycling and cleanup projects across the state.

Custer County Recycling, Broken Bow, is among 2015 grant recipients and will receive \$10,270.00 for a 100-ton scrap tire cleanup project.

Nebraskans generate more than one-and-a-half-million scrap tires each year, about one tire for every person in the state. The grants are part of NDEQ's Waste Reduction and Recycling Grants program, and

are funded by a \$1 fee on new tires purchased in Nebraska.

"These grants will focus on effective methods of dealing with scrap tires and promoting their use in new products," Macy said. "We're supporting local efforts to clean up tire piles and conduct community scrap tire collections. These efforts help prevent health and environmental problems by preventing tires from accumulating in piles across the state."

In addition, grants will partially reimburse individuals and organizations for rubber mulch and other new products

that were made from scrap tires, Macy said.

This year, \$645,964 in grants was awarded to cities, counties and natural resources districts to conduct 30 scrap tire collections. It is estimated that these events will clean up an estimated 7,075 tons of scrap tires from Nebraska homes, farms and businesses.

Funds will also be used by schools and organizations across the state to provide partial reimbursement for playground mulch, synthetic turf fields, running tracks and other recycled rubber projects.