



Serving the
South Loup River Valley

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They've a Story to Tell

7th in a Series on Arnold's
"Young at Heart"
Residents

By Darlene Rimpley

When Bill and Cyd Miller arrived in Arnold in 1963 for Bill to teach in the Arnold High School, it was to be a short term teaching job. Superintendent Alvin Story had gone to Atkinson to talk to Bill about teaching in Arnold, but Bill was a little reticent because he knew that in two years he would be going to Omaha to teach. Mr. Story persuaded Bill to come to Arnold for the two years he would be waiting to go to Omaha, and so the newlyweds came. Well, 52 years later, the Millers are still Arnold residents. They fell in love with the town when they came to interview. Bill recalled there were so many trees that they made a canopy over the streets, which he had never seen before. They still love the town.

Mary Little was born and raised in Ainsworth, Nebraska, in a family of 12 children. This was a blended family. Her mother had two sons when she married Bill Little, and they had three children, which included Mary. When her mother died at the age of 45, her father remarried and they had seven children. Out of the 12, eight are still living. Mary became "Cyd" when her little brother - who was trying to call her "sister" but couldn't say it - had shortened it to Cyd. The name stuck.

While in high school, one of Cyd's teachers was a Mr. Alvin

Bill and Cyd's "short stay" in Arnold turns into a long one.



Driving their '91 Ford Ranger, these two seemingly innocent Arnold senior residents recently had a run-in with two state patrol officers in downtown Arnold. It's just one of the fun stories the Millers have to tell. (Kendra Veirs photo)

Story. Following high school, Cyd went to Bassett where she apprenticed in a beauty shop to work towards being a beautician. This required 1,600 hours of training, and along with this, Cyd worked in a café. After earning her license, Cyd continued working at the shop where she had trained.

Bill Miller was born and raised in Atkinson, one of five children. He was a typical boy, trying all sorts of activities. When he was about 10 years old, he and a friend built a boat and chewed up tar to soften it to stuff in the cracks to waterproof it. It came time to try it out, so they headed for the nearby Elkhorn River to take

the maiden voyage. Accompanying them was a duck that Bill had won at BINGO, and his little blonde, curly headed two-year-old sister Connie. They all loaded up and launched the boat. It was fine for a while, but when the tar got cold, it came out of the cracks and the boat began to sink. Soon the boys, the duck and Connie were all in the water. The boys concentrated on catching the duck and forgot Connie. They soon saw her curly head floating down the river and rescued her.

After graduation from high school, Bill walked on at Creighton College, hoping to make the basketball team. He made the traveling team and remained at Creighton for two years. He then transferred to Wayne College for his junior year. His dad, who was on the draft board, told Bill one day that if he wanted to join the Air Force or Navy he better go do it right then, because he was going to have to draft him in a

couple of days - and he did.

Service to their country was important to the Miller family. Bill's father was in World War I in the Balloon Corps. (I had to have this explained to me.) They would put the men into a balloon, fly over the line into enemy territory to locate the enemy, go back and land the balloon, and then the men would progress into the enemy territory. His Uncle Jack was in the Navy in World War II, and Bill and his brother, Pat, both served in the Korean War.

Bill took his basic training at Ft. Bliss, Texas, and then he was off to Korea, where he spent one year, three months and nine days. While there he froze his fingers and toes twice, saying, "After the first time, you would think I would know better, wouldn't you?" and was wounded twice. Service personnel did not receive mail on a regular basis, and although they tried to write home often, sometimes it was hard to do. One time when Bill's folks had not heard from him for a long time, his dad got in touch with the local Red Cross, who then got in touch with the Korean Red Cross, who got in touch with Bill's commanding officer, who then got in touch with Bill and chewed him out for not

writing. Bill's response was to ask him when he had had time.

One time when Bill was hospitalized after being wounded, he was laying in bed and heard someone telling him to open his eyes and look at him. After he heard some loud voices, Bill finally got his eyes open, and on one side of him was a school classmate. On the other side was Dr. Bobby Brown, a professional ball player who was serving during the war.

Bill returned to Wayne to take his senior year and earn a teaching certificate. He taught one year at Chambers, Nebraska, and then six years at Inman, where he was principal, coached boys' basketball and volleyball, and was the English teacher.

During his time at Inman, he and a friend were hunting for something to do on a Saturday night, and Bill said he had heard there was a dance in Bassett. They looked all over town, but could not find the location of a dance, so started home. Suddenly, Bill remembered the Bassett Legion Club. They turned around, and sure enough, there was the dance. There was a baseball player at the dance, so Bill went to talk to

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"Scheduling the Ladies"

When the Millers came to Arnold, Mr. Story had arranged for an interview with Lucille Peters of Lucille's Beauty Shop for Cyd. Even more than her ability at styling hair, Cyd learned that she had to be able to schedule appointments so the women who "got along" were there at the same time.

"The Wrong Door"

One time there was a strong knock on Bill's door while he was teaching a class. When he opened the door, he found Mr. Story, who proceeded to read him the riot act. Bill didn't say anything. Mr. Story got done and walked on down the hall, and Bill went back in to teach his class. Mr. Story later told Bill that he had knocked on the wrong door.

Life-Saving Extrication Training

Fire Department Receives FCSAmerica Grant for New Equipment

The Arnold Fire Department received life-saving grain bin rescue equipment on July 24 through a donation from Farm Credit Services of America (FCSAmerica). A grain bin rescue exercise followed to train fire-

fighters in the use of the specialized equipment.

The AFD received a 10-panel system, slide hammer and other accessories manufactured by Outstate Data in Elbow, Minnesota. The equipment is designed by rescuers specifically for grain bin entrappments.

Even as the overall rate of serious injuries and fatalities on farms has fallen, the number of grain bin entrappments remains

stubbornly steady, in part because of the country's high grain production has led to more bins that require more grain workers.

Grain can engulf and bury a worker in less than 30 seconds. The AFD recognizes that grain bin rescue equipment significantly increases the chance of saving a life. AFD is among the 84 rural and most volunteer departments receiving grain bin rescue equipment and training through FCSAmerica in 2015. Most of the recipient departments are part of mutual aid agreements that allow multiple communities to use and benefit from the equipment.

"FCSAmerica is proud to make grain bin rescue equipment a community service priority," said Ryan Kirchhoff, Vice President at FCSAmerica's Broken Bow office. "As a cooperative for farmers and ranchers, we understand the importance of farm safety. We see grain bin rescue equipment as one of the most worthwhile investments we can make in the rural communities we serve."

Farm safety experts caution that bins in many areas of the country are filled with high-moisture corn and beans because of a wet harvest. Crusting can develop inside these bins, increasing the risk of entrapment. Safety experts advise against entering bins without at least two others present. Everyone involved should know the steps to take in the event of an entrapment, and nobody should attempt a rescue alone.

EMT Rescue Captain Tammy Weinman said last week's training will make use of the new equipment easier and safer.

around grain and finds themselves getting trapped in the grain, make sure you use your arms to protect your chest and make an air pocket around your mouth and nose with your hands. This will provide a pocket that might save your life if fully covered in grain until rescuers can extricate you," she said.

Participating in the training were: Nancy Cool, Susan Nelson, Dell Cerny, Donnell DeLosh, Heather Hagler, Shelley Smith, Tammy Weinman, Robbi Smith, Gregg Tickle, Andrew Tickle, Justin Conner, Lindy Dailey, Jason Jenkins, Brady Weinman and Eric Nelson. Jenkins and Weinman

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NRD will Speak About Problems with South Loup River at Rotary

The Lower Loup NRD is concerned about the water quality of the South Loup River between Arnold and south of Callaway, where there are high levels of E. coli bacteria, high nitrate levels, nutrients and sedimentation problems.

Tyler Naprstek, NRD representative in charge of the project, will be at Rotary on Thursday, July 30 to give information and seek input from residents. Local residents who would like to know more about this project are urged to come to the Cardinal Inn at 7:30 p.m., to hear Mr. Naprstek explain what the State of Nebraska and Lower Loup NRD plan is to correct these issues.



A bird's-eye view of the Arnold Fire Department's training in new grain bin rescue equipment was provided last week by Andrew Tickle, owner of Quad Cloud Photography, using a drone. The training was held in the back of a grain trailer out at Blaine Hagler's.