

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2017

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 50 CENTS

VOLUME 101, NUMBER 10

## They've a Story to Tell

### Pat Parks-Nelson's Family Has Long History in Arnold Area



Pat Parks-Nelson (holding family treasures) is enjoying living in her new home south of the library. The light pole to the left is one of the original light posts in Arnold. (Fallon Gibson photo)

John Beshaler, born in Ahn, Luxemburg, Europe, became a naturalized American citizen in 1889 in a Custer County, Nebraska, court. Angelina Moes, born in 1861 in Canach, Luxemburg, migrated to America in 1877 and lived in David City and Bellwood, Nebraska. John and Angelina married in 1884, and they came to Custer County where they settled on a homestead between Callaway and Arnold, Nebraska. They had seven children, including Ferdinand (Fred).

John had gone to Luxemburg in 1929 to see his sisters and to visit his boyhood home. While there, he passed away. Angelina moved into Callaway in 1939, where she passed away in 1944.

Jacob and Nancy Seaney lived in Indiana and had several children, including a daughter, Dora, before they moved to Nebraska and settled near the Finchville, Custer County, area in the early 1890s. Nancy Seaney returned to Indiana several times when she was about to give birth. She died in childbirth while there.

Fred Beshaler and Dora Seaney met and were married at Finchville in 1911. After living a short time in South Dakota, they returned to Nebraska, and Fred built a home for them on the place that was his parents' and is still in the

Beshaler family. He tore down a number of old houses in the area and used that lumber to build his one room home. Two children were born to the couple: Charles (Bud) and Patty (Pat). The Beshalers had also taken a girl, Clara Belle, who was the oldest, into their home to raise.

The children went to elementary school at Finchville, and Pat remembers three of her teachers: Mrs. Jim Eddy, Mrs. Tyne Conley and Nina Mae Bryan. Pat recalls playing at the gravel pit and having to clean off the screen when the pump shut down. She didn't know that it was a job.

When both Clara Belle and Bud, who was seven years older than Pat, attended high school, they caught the train at a crossing close to where they lived, rode it to Callaway where they stayed during the week, and rode the train home again on Friday nights. Pat attended high school in Arnold and roomed in town.

When Pat was 11 years old, her father was killed in an accident involving the moving of a house and a pickup. One of the memories she has of her dad is of him sitting in his rocking chair listening to the news about the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Pat graduated from Arnold High in 1949 and went to work for Dolphie Brown in his insurance business as a bookkeeper.

When an Omaha guy, Cecil "Bud" Parks—who had finished a tour in the Navy and was friends with the sons of a trucking company, Milford and Wayne Conley—started driving for Conley Trucking, he began dating Pat, and on October 29, 1950, they were married. Their first home was in Suburbia (how many know where that is?). They eventually moved to a house on Haskell Street, where they lived until June 1, 1954, and then purchased a home on Court Street. Pat lived in this house for 60 years until she sold it in 2014.

The house had a back porch, and the door to the basement opened up out of the floor. One time, when it was open, their daughter, Travi, fell down the steps and still has the scar to prove it. They did some remod-

eling, and the back porch became part of the kitchen with a different approach to the basement.

Bud and Pat had three daughters: Debra, Travi and Binda (hereafter known as "PeeWee"). They purchased land in the Lower Powell Canyon and Pleasant Hill vicinity, where they ran cattle. They also added onto their land where the house and a huge barn sat, and bought Arnold's first golf course.

Pat has done considerable traveling. When PeeWee graduated from high school in 1974, she, Pat, Travi, and husband, Cliff Ross, went to Luxemburg. They had a euro rail pass which allowed them to travel extensively.

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### Watch for Solar Eclipse Coverage in Next Week's Issue

By the time you read this issue, the total solar eclipse will have come and gone. Due to the unforeseen circumstances of whether or not Internet and cell phone services would be affected by the large number of people expected to come to the Arnold area on Monday (printing day), this issue was emailed to the printer by Saturday - assuring that there would be no problems. Watch for complete coverage of the eclipse and what happened in Arnold and the surrounding area in next week's issue.

## Village Receives \$2,000 Community Foundation Grant for Playground Equipment

The Arnold Village Board of Trustees received good news at their regular meeting held on August 14. Patricia Lamberty informed the board that the village has received a \$2,000.00 check from the Nebraska Community Foundation, which is a grant payment from the Arnold Community Foundation, for playground equipment.

AEDC Director Cheryl Carson gave her monthly update, saying that Great Plains Communications is double checking on whether or not operating systems are compatible for live stream cameras for Arnold events. Once word is received, the cameras can be ordered and installed.

Carson said she will be printing a simple map of the community for eclipse visitors, with information on where to locate services, retail and eating establishments and special activities going on. She was also providing website information so that

visitors could learn more about Arnold in general.

Carson attended the Nebraska Diplomats Economic Discussion & Celebration in July. She said the day consisted of a discussion concerning regional workforce and housing, with Governor Pete Ricketts serving as speaker. Broken Bow was presented the 2017 Regional Community of the Year by the Nebraska Diplomats, an organization under the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. The award was based off of how change has happened over the last year.

Rosemary Daniels, representing Callaway LB840, and Carson, were asked to join the stage for the receipt of the award. Deb McCaslin stated,

"While the hardware says Broken Bow, it really is to the county, because in Custer County, it takes all of us to make it work."

After Carson's update, the

board first considered and then voted to terminate the current Program Administrator Agreement with the AEDC and approve a revised/updated agreement. The Program Administrator Agreement outlines the duties of the program administrator (AEDC) and the duties of the village regarding the economic development program.

Representing SORC, Becky Dailey thanked the village employees for all their help with SORC, and mentioned that next year, more picnic tables might be needed at the city park.

School board member Tony Eggleston requested permission for APS to place a sign on the village's right of way to recognize donors to the school's beef program. Discussion was held on placing the sign underneath the banner that is located on Highway 92 by Mills Hardware. Patricia Lamberty said

she contacted the Nebraska Department of Roads, since the sign will be on a state highway. It was recommended that the village apply for a permit, and there is no cost. The board voted to give permission to APS to put up the donor recognition sign.

Pepper Werner asked the board if they would consider applying for a Nebraska Game and Parks Commission grant to move and expand the shooting range. The grant is funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Werner said there is not enough time to get the application in for this year, but asked if the board would consider applying next year.

Werner said she is working on getting land donated and the value of the land could be used as the required match. Further discussion will be held once Werner has a donor for the land.

The Arnold Volunteer Fire De-

partment was granted permission to block off the baseball diamond at Old Mill Park on August 20 and 21 as a possible landing zone for a medical helicopter if it is needed during the solar eclipse weekend.

Chairman Glen Bowers said that Bo Pettit was offered the position of village superintendent but did not accept it. Interviews will be set up with two of the applicants.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the agreement with the Arnold Public School for the use of the community center for 2017-2018.

- Accepted Country Partners bid of \$1.10 per gallon for propane.

- Approved Jane Chesnutt's application for a special designated license for a beer garden at the south parking lot of Jim's Bar on Saturday, September 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

## Under Water

After a long, hot, dry summer, this was the scene at Old Mill Park last Wednesday, August 16, as the South Loup River overflowed its banks. Rain poured down in

Arnold and the surrounding area starting Tuesday evening, August 15, and continued through Wednesday morning in some areas. Northwest of Arnold, 10 inches of

rain reportedly fell in about a 12 hour period. The town of Arnold received upwards of 5 inches. (Fallon Gibson photo)