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South Loup River Valley

# The Arnold Sentinel

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## They've a Story to Tell

15th in a Series on Arnold's  
"Young at Heart"  
Residents

By Darlene Rimpley

**S**he's 93 years old, and it seems like she has done a little bit - or a lot - of just about everything. She taught school, worked in a bakery, worked at a plant, was a farm wife, made clothing for her children, did crocheting and quilting, took trips on a motorcycle, rode in a three-seat plane to Yellowstone Park, traveled to many states, plus many more experiences, and she just keeps going.

Edna Long has always lived in Custer County, although when she was growing up, she was mighty close to the Lincoln County line. The school she and her three brothers attended actually sat on the Custer/Lincoln County line. Their parents were George and Nellie, who were married in 1917, and lived in the Arnold area for about a year.

Edna tells that George was on a train on the way to Grand Island to be inducted into the Army, when the train the men were on was stopped because the Armistice treaty had been signed. The men all returned to their homes.

They moved to a farm north of Gothenburg, in the very southwest corner of Custer County. George and Nellie eventually bought the farm, and added four children to the family.

The kids learned to work early. They knew how to harness work horses, pitch hay, help in the garden, and do whatever needed to be done. In the good years, there was a large pond in the pasture. When the Dust Bowl years hit the area, the pond turned into a growth of Russian thistles, weeds, and a tough grass, and the children had to herd the milk cows into the pond to have something to eat. When milk from the cows was used to make bread, the baked product came out green and almost like a rope.

After grade school, Edna and one brother were able to attend and graduate from high school in Gothenburg. After graduation, Edna taught in country schools for six years.

Edna married Vernon Long.

### There's No Sitting Idle for Arnold Resident Edna Long



Now in her 90's, Edna Long lays out blocks for a quilt. She makes several quilts each year that are sent to various parts of the country for those in need. (Kendra Veirs photo)

They worked for a farmer in the Arnold area and had four children. Following their divorce, Edna worked at the B-D plant in Broken Bow.

While working at the plant, a group of ladies, including Ula Holt, a former Arnold resident, would get off work, go home and shower, eat a bite of breakfast, load up in a car and take off for the weekend. Some of the time they had no definite destination in mind, but would let the "spirit move" and see where they would end up.

Edna retired from the plant and moved "back home" to the farm to care for her father who was alone after his wife's death. When her father passed away, Edna and a brother inherited the farm, where she continued living. She worked in Gothenburg at a bakery, and when the bakery exchanged owners, she

was in charge of training all of the new employees.

While working in Gothenburg, Edna broke her leg and had a friend who was her "caregiver." The friend had a brother who owned a lodge right at the entrance to Yellowstone National Park. He told his sister that she and Edna should come out there and stay for several weeks. It would not cost them anything for room and board, and the sister could help with work around there. So they boarded the little three-seater plane and took off for the park. She remembers that flying over the Rocky Mountains in that little plane was quite an experience. They returned home in the same plane.

Other traveling was done when her brother and a nephew, who each owned a motorcycle, worked at Monroes in

### Born "Via Telephone"

Edna was born "via telephone" on March 22, 1923, in the middle of a blizzard. Not being able to get out to a hospital, her great aunt, Gustie, who happened to be staying with them, used the telephone to get instructions on child birth from the doctor, followed up, and a healthy baby girl arrived in the world.

Cozad. On Fridays, Edna and her sister-in-law, who had also lost her husband, would pack up some groceries, tie up their sleeping bags, and when the guys got off work, they would get on their motorcycles and take off for a short trip, sleeping at a roadside park in their sleeping bags and eating from the groceries they took along.

When Edna's brother passed away, his wife wanted to sell the farm, and so it was done. Edna's son-in-law, Dennis Beatty, knew about a house in Arnold that was for sale and told Edna it would be ideal for her. And thus she became an Arnold resident once again.

Edna is not sure when the house was built, but the architecture testifies to its age. There are many cupboards and two sets of double doors leading into the rooms. With all this and the generous size of the rooms, you find yourself wishing you could live there.

Edna and her son, John, have made some improvements: new windows replacing the old, with the exception of one set; an updated bathroom; a new floor in the kitchen; and several others. And yes, Edna helped with all of the work! She has no dishwasher, because she says, "I can still wash dishes."

When Edna moved into the house, there was a huge tree stump just south of her house. One day, when she was in the house and her little dog was on a couch in the dining room, she heard a terrible noise and the dog went wild. Thinking something had hit the house, she ran outside and found that huge tree stump had sunk into the ground and made the noise. It took John several loads of dirt to get the hole filled in, and even now, Edna notices small

holes where the stump was.

Edna has always done a lot of fancy work: embroidery, crocheting (she has a large crocheted rag rug on her kitchen floor), and quilting. She still quilts extensively, and has converted one bedroom into a sewing room, which has two sewing machines, piles of pressed material ready to be cut into quilt blocks, and many quilts already made.

She uses one pattern to follow for her quilt blocks and squares of four different sizes, because she says, "You can make so many patterns with those blocks." And Edna knows how to improvise: when she gets ready to tie a quilt, she takes four kitchen chairs into the garage and uses them as the legs.

One year, John and his wife, Marlene, were going to Texas for the winter, and a number of her quilts went with them to be given to an orphanage. Her neighbor, Mary Jane, took 25 quilts back to Mississippi to be given to places that could use them.

Edna rolls her quilts after they are put together to eliminate the creases from folding. I didn't count the quilts she has already pieced and tied that are ready to be sent "some place."

One year, while still a child, Edna, her mother, and Aunt Gustie, went to a tent revival meeting, and Edna sat on the seat next to the aisle. When the people starting going forward and dancing in the aisles and talking loudly, Edna watched in fascination; that is, until one of the men in the aisle grabbed her by the arm and had her in the aisle before she knew it. That incident scared Edna so

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### Tied Together for Safety

The children attended a country school two and a half miles from their home, and walked across pastures to get there. The school house, just the short distance across the pastures, was actually more than six miles if driven on roads. Edna recalled that several times when a bad snowstorm came up during the school day, her dad and a neighbor man walked over to get the children, and would tie them together to ensure their safety.

## Chamber Plans Upcoming Events

Arnold Chamber met on August 29 to hear reports on past events, and plan for upcoming events.

Members thanked Dell Cerny and all who helped with Saturday's Sandhills Open Road Challenge barbecue. Special mention was also given to the After Prom committee for all their help with set up and clean up. The motion was made and approved to donate \$100.00 to After Prom for their help.

It was reported that one of the SORC drivers donated \$1,000.00 to Arnold's library fund.

Chamber will ask PTA to prepare a meal for the teachers at Parent/Teacher conferences on September 22.

Mills Hardware is having a 20-year anniversary celebration September 6-10. Events are planned for each day. An appreciation lunch will be served on Saturday. The Mills thank all those who have helped them reach this milestone.

Upcoming events include:

The Junk Jaunt will be held September 23, 24 and 25. Betty Yeargain is the Arnold chairperson.

The Halloween Carnival is planned for October 28, with Kendra Veirs, Rose Bierman and Katie Weinman serving as chairpersons.

Barb Gunther is in charge of the craft show scheduled for October 29. A few booths are still available.

It was decided to sell tickets to the housing tour at the door the day of the craft show. There will be a drawing for three, \$10.00 Chamber Bucks. Participants must attend the craft show to enter their name in the drawing.

The Housing Tour is set for November 12. A salad luncheon starts at noon, and the tour begins at 1:00 p.m. Chairpersons are Jen Meyer, Lisa Geiser, Karla Rockwell and Cheryl Carson.

Houses on the tour are: Gary and Kelli Blevins, Gary and Merri Jo Halstead, Gary and Margaret Ann Mills, and Berni Crow's school house.

Please contact Lisa Geiser if you want to donate a salad or dessert. Tickets can be purchased at the AEDC office and First State Insurance. Ticket prices are \$12.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the door.

Christmas Around Town has been scheduled for December 3. Patty Lamberty and Sue DeLosh are chairpersons.

In other business, the treasurer's report was approved. Total in the checking account is \$1,856.03.

Attending the August 29 meeting were: Dell and Chyrel Cerny, Don and Beverly Dailey, Lisa Geiser, Sal Hilderbrant, Patty Lamberty, Barb Gunther, Jake Gilland, Margie McDowell, and Dena Mills (president), who oversaw the meeting.

## Gaming Petition Signatures Fall Short of Verification

LINCOLN - Two additional petition initiatives tied to casino gambling at horse racing venues, will not appear on the general election ballot. Secretary of State John Gale says the number of signatures collected for each initiative did not reach the required threshold of 80,032.

"Not only did the number of raw or unverified signatures not reach the threshold, but once the signature verification process was completed, a sizable number of signatures were rejected for various reasons," explained Gale.

The number of signatures turned in for the petition related to the regulation of games of chance was 73,617. Of those signatures, 51,993 were accepted during the verification process by county election officials. For the taxation petition, 78,157 signatures were turned in for verification. Of those, 54,854 signatures were ac-

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## Village's Budget Hearing Set for September 12

The Arnold Village Board of Trustees will hold a Budget Hearing on Monday, September 12, at 7:15 p.m. The proposed budget is \$2,174,523 for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Approximately 24% of the budgeted expenditures (\$525,000) are for electricity purchases from Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska and Western Area Power Administration. The largest capital improvement budgeted for is \$300,000 for Electrical Upgrades. This includes Phase 3 of the Voltage Conversion & Line Rebuild Project. Phase 1 was completed in fiscal year 2012-2013. Phase 2 was completed in fiscal year 2014-2015.

Other capital improvements include:

- \$45,000.00 for Street Improvements
- \$25,000.00 for CIPP Liner (Sewer System)
- \$20,000.00 Install 6" Water Main on 600 Block of N Haskall
- \$15,000.00 Old Mill Park Improvements - Contingent upon donations
- \$45,000.00 Arnold Roping Arena Project - Contingent upon donations

Capital Outlay Expenditures include:

- \$10,000.00 Pool Heater
- \$2,500.00 DR Walk Behind Mower
- \$10,000 Dumpsters

Other major expenditures include:

- \$35,000.00 Wastewater

Plant Expense

• \$35,000.00 Water Tower Maintenance

\$104,850.00 has been budgeted for Community Improvement. This money comes from the 1 percent local sales & use tax. The Arnold Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees on how this money is used.

A Special Hearing to Set Final Tax Request will be held on September 12, at 7:15 p.m. The 2015-2016 property tax request is \$83,730.00. The proposed 2016 tax rate would be .399934. The prior year property tax request was \$74,640.00 (Tax Rate .355901). The property tax request has been \$74,640.00 since 2009-2010. The Village may

levy a maximum of 45 cents per 100 dollars of taxable valuation of property subject to the levy.

According to Nebraska Revised State Statutes, the property tax request for the prior year shall be the property tax request for the current year for purposes of the levy set by the County Board of Equalization unless the Governing Body passes by a majority vote a resolution setting the tax request at a different amount. A special hearing must be conducted to hear comments regarding the Property Tax Request. Property taxes are split between the General and Street Departments.

The General includes Parks, Swimming Pool, Community Center and General Government.

The Street Department includes

recreational facilities, streets, sidewalks, and drainage.

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