

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Historical Marker Placed at Former Hospital

A historical marker has been placed at the former location of the Marion Dunn Hospital, detailing the history of Arnold's two hospitals dating back to 1921. A project of Arnold Rotary, Berni Crow is in charge of compiling the information for the signs. The hospital marker reads as follows:

Arnold's First Hospital – 1921

Marion Dunn Hospital – 1930-1958

Mrs. John (Altena) Shaw opened Arnold's first hospital in her home in 1921, after being urged to do so by Dr.'s Burnham and Dunn. (She had purchased the home from Sylvester Tubbs, who hired George Morrow and Tom Backes to build the house in 1909.) A hospital facility was badly needed at that time, because operations were being performed on kitchen tables in the homes of patients. Shaw's large two story house was considered the roomiest house in Arnold. It was located five blocks north of the Finch Drug Store (present Gene Tullis home). Altena's house had a second story veranda along the east side where convalescing patients enjoyed the morning sun (The second story was removed when Clark Lewis owned the home.) Tubb's daughter recalled, in a 1971 writing, "After we moved in the new house (1909), Earl Gregory's twins were born in an upstairs room, and five days later, Mr. C. C. Brummett's daughter, Florence, was born across the hall." The Sentinel reported that in 1923, during one week, four operations were performed. A cesarean was performed in 1924 when Mr. and Mrs. Will Scott, of Yucca Valley, became the parents of son Franklin (father of Frank, Peg, Pat, and Bonnie Scott). It is believed that this was the first operation of its kind in this part of the country. Others that helped Altena Shaw operate the hospital included: Mrs. George (Myrtle Magnusson) Babcock, Vida Reckmeyer and Mrs. Mary Tryon. Mary

had come to Arnold in 1921 with four children, Jay, John, Robert, and Susan Mary, to work at the hospital. Mrs. Tryon was left in charge of the hospital when the Shaws moved away. Tryon was assisted by Crystal Spratt (Will), Burnetha Bryan (Holt), and Emma Gion (Beltz-Mills). The need for a larger facility was apparent. The cornerstone for the new brick hospital was laid a year before it was built. It contained a box of letters and a history of events leading up to the completion of the new hospital. The Marion Dunn Hospital was built by J. E. Dunn, and was ready for use by March of 1930. Dunn named the hospital for his daughter Marion. After the move was completed to the new hospital, the "first" hospital was quickly occupied by Mr. and Mrs. George Troyer, who rented out "light housekeeping rooms." Mrs. Tryon continued as nurse and manager in the new hospital 1921-1951. Mary Tryon had seen so many changes over those 30 years and her first years were in the day when babies were born at home. She wrote, "When we went on a baby call, the whole family was present. While the doctor waited for the baby, grandpa would bring out his guns and swap lies about hunting and fishing. Other places, someone would bring an old fiddle and there would be music to while away the time. Grandma would make coffee and have lots to eat. It was just fun, an enjoyable time." Unfortunately, during the 1950s, the entire community found itself split by a furious doctor-hospital controversy that raged for almost a decade, ending with the loss of both the doctors and the hospital. The first problems had begun in 1945, and Mary Tryon had closed the hospital for a year. It reopened under new management, but closed again in 1949. (Years later, Mo Sanford found a scrapbook in a box he had purchased at an auction. He had copies made of the scrapbook containing news articles



Dave and Berni Crow stand beside the historical marker placed near the old hospital (pictured in background). Berni is in charge of the historical marker project.

about the "Dr. Wars" that had been put together by Mrs. Quin Connelly.) By 1951, arrangements had been made to offer the Marion Dunn Hospital for sale to the public. Mary Tryon was able to purchase it for \$10,000, which ended her thirty years of hospital work in Arnold. Hospital administrators changed frequently during its last few years; they included Martha Hardin, John and Lily Troyer, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ryba, Ruth Steele, Gladys Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Silen, Mrs. R. R. Brown, and Mrs. Jim (Lila) Leonard. Doctors who had worked in the new hospital include: Reeves, McShane, Potts, and Scheuneman. The hospital board consisting of Mar-

garet Aydelotte, Bill Hagler, Elmer Geiser, R. R. Brown, and Dessie McIsaac had refused to allow a controversial doctor a place on the hospital staff, for alleged narcotics handling. A public meeting was held with 800 people attending, including The Omaha World Herald and several other reporters, with 50% voting in favor of the boards' decision. By 1957, all doctors had left, and the hospital became a nursing home for a short time. Even the nursing home was unsuccessful, with the building finally closing its doors in October of 1958. Dr. Reeves and Dr. McShane were both featured in an article in Time Magazine's Medical section in the January 19, 1950

issue. After closing, doctors would arrive showing an interest in Arnold and then would locate elsewhere, perhaps due to the "doctor trouble". In 1968, the building was sold at auction to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Holman who remodeled it for an apartment house, including apartments that were rented out in the basement. It has been privately owned as a home ever since, please respect the residents' privacy.

(Some information for the markers was taken from the book "One Hundred Years on the South Loup" by Norene Hall Mills. Written and prepared by Berni Crow 6/10/2020)

Crawley joins MPCC Board of Governors

The newest addition to the Mid-Plains Community College Board of Governors is no stranger to the field of education.

Kirk Crawley spent his entire career as a teacher, coach and administrator within the Broken Bow Public Schools system. He was sworn onto the MPCC Board of Governors Wednesday evening during a meeting at the college's North Campus in North Platte.

"I'm looking forward to getting my feet wet," said Crawley. "I'm anxious to see all the other campuses and what they have to offer and to understand the

direction the board and administration wants to take those."

Crawley is originally from Arnold. He was raised on a ranch west of the community, and attended Arnold High School, which is where his interest in education began.

"My mother had been a teacher at surrounding country schools, so education was always promoted to me from the time I was very young," Crawley said. "Then in high school, we had a program that allowed students to assist teachers in the classroom. I really enjoyed that, and the experience made me want to teach as well."

Crawley graduated from Arnold High School in 1978 and enrolled in what is now the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He earned a degree in elementary education from UNK in 1982 and obtained a master's degree in education administration from the university in 1988.

His first job out of college was teaching third grade and coaching junior high football and high school wrestling for the Broken Bow Public Schools.

"I came in during the '82-'83 school year," Crawley said. "I had some really great mentors when I arrived, and those guys

helped me get started the right way. I was able to build some strong relationships with the kids and their families, which ended up being the high point for me."

Crawley coached both sports for more than two decades. As time went on, he also taught fourth and fifth grades, spent a year as the activities director and was the assistant elementary principal for the last five years of his career.

"It was entirely different being an administrator as opposed to an educator or coach," Crawley said. "Instead of being zeroed in on a group of 20-25 kids, I had to focus on the needs of all the kids, which was an eye-opening experience even after being in education as long as I was. I always appreciated educators at all levels, but when I had to go into various classrooms and evaluate them, I really gained an awareness of the different skill sets needed for every grade."

Crawley retired in 2016 but couldn't leave the educational world behind. Last year, he was approached by Louis "Louie" Stithem, also of Broken Bow,

who, after 32 years of representing District Three on the MPCC Board of Governors, decided to step down.

"He encouraged me to run for his seat," Crawley said. "I had worked with Louie and always found him to be an asset, not just to the board, but also to the Broken Bow community. I thought serving in his place would be an incredible opportunity to make a difference in higher education and to try to emulate some of those great characteristics Louie has shown over the years."

While he doesn't believe there's any true substitution for experience, Crawley is looking forward to doing what he can

to help meet the needs of the area through the MPCC Board of Governors.

His first order of business will be gaining an understanding of operations and developing relationships with college employees and board veterans.

"At the end of the day, we are all working toward a common goal – promoting Mid-Plains and the opportunities it offers," Crawley said. "No matter the level, education plays a huge role in impacting and improving lives. MPCC is a vital component of that. Just because you're in a rural setting doesn't mean you can't meet people's needs. It just means you do it in a different way. I'm looking forward to the challenge."

George Hippel Photography

Kirk Crawley

Serving Together



Married couple Cameron and Jacklyn Meyer are serving side-by-side on the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department.

This week we continue a series on married couples who are serving together on the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department. Cameron and Jacklyn Meyer are featured volunteers.

Cameron joined the department in 2011, was gone for a short time, then rejoined in 2018. He currently serves as a fireman on the department.

After Cameron was engaged to Jacklyn, she became interested in joining the department and becoming an EMT. Jacklyn has been taking the EMT class in 2020. Her training has had many setbacks due to COVID 19 restrictions and she is anxiously waiting to finish the course. Cameron and Jacklyn were also married in the fall of 2020.

When discussing serving on the department as a couple, Cameron said, "It's just nice to know that she understands the sacrifices we have to make to help others when they need us most."

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Look Up Brown-Harano Photos at Arnold Location

Mary Dymond will be at BrewBakers this Thursday afternoon, January 28, to help residents look up photos taken at the Brown-Harano Photo Studio.

Once the photos are chosen, the studio will mail them or Mary will bring them to you.