

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Courtesy photo

Eighty-eight-year-old David Sheets keeps his 2000 Peterbilt in top condition to haul mainly hazardous materials thousands of miles each year. He always makes it a point to stop long enough to return to his hometown to attend the A.H.S. Alumni Reunion each year.

1950 A.H.S. Grad Keeps on Trucking

Dave Sheets is one of the oldest over-the-road drivers in nation.

By Janet Larreau

Most people closing in on 90 years old don't know a lot about social media, or don't care to. Dave Sheets, a 1950 graduate of A.H.S., is one of them. When the North Dakota Highway Patrol tweeted a photo and commended Dave for his safety as an over-the-road truck driver and KVVR of Bismarck, North Dakota, followed with a short story about him online, what happened next was something he didn't anticipate.

Dave, who is one of the oldest truck drivers in the nation, had made his way into North Dakota and was pulled over to participate in International Roadcheck, an annual event when certified inspectors conduct compliance, enforcement and educational initiatives targeted at motor carrier, vehicle and driver safety. After the check, NDHP tweeted, commending "Mr. Sheets" for keeping his 2000 Peterbilt in top condition. His dedication to safety earned him a CVSA decal after the inspection.

Dave, who has driven for Savannah Transport, based in suburban Salt Lake City, for more than 25 years, was described by owner Terry Crawford as a "terrific, old-school truck driver" who can "outdo" most of his younger drivers in KVVR's story.

For Dave, delivering general cargo thousands of miles - including hazardous materials - to several Western and Central states isn't a big deal. He's been doing it since the 1970s.

"The inspector told me that the condition of my truck and the age impressed him. I was dressed decent and didn't look like a scrounge, so he took a picture. As of last Sunday (May 2), there has been over 6,000 hits on the story," said Dave, who most likely didn't even know what "hits" were before stopping at the roadcheck.

Dave started receiving calls from as far away as California. The long-time resident of Loveland, Colorado, was becoming a person of interest on social media and is still drawing a lot of attention.

Laughing, he said, "One wanted to buy me a meal and two wanted to buy my truck."

After graduating from A.H.S., Dave stayed on the farm "up in the valley" for about a year. He fell into a job hauling butter from the Arnold and Callaway creameries to Omaha twice a week. On his way back, he would pick up all kinds of freight in all the little towns in between. One time he picked up school desks and had to find his way to all the rural schools for delivery.

"You never knew what you were going to get. Most of the time I was driving a 2-ton

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A.H.S. Alumni Reunion Returns in 2021

Two sets of honored classes from each decade will be honored.

It didn't happen in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it will in 2021. The A.H.S. Alumni Banquet and Program is set for this Saturday, May 29, and will be unprecedented, with several classes stepping up to be recognized.

President Allison (Rosentrater) Goodenow said the Alumni Association will be making up for lost time.

We will be honoring all classes that would have been honored at last year's alumni banquet and this year's banquet, together," she said. "This year's theme will be 'AHS Awards' and everyone is invited to take a stroll down the red carpet. Please feel free to dust off your fanciest dresses

and best suits and ties to enjoy a night of reminiscing and awards as we celebrate this year's honored classes."

It took a little bit of persuasion, or maybe a lot, for her life-long friend Mackenzie (Ferguson) Kulp to agree to emcee the program, as long as Allison did it with her.

Darlene (Hagler) Rimpley, Class of '52, is 1st-vice-president in charge of the program, assisted by Timothy Rosentrater, Class of 1979. April (Mills) Tickle, Class of 2009, is 2nd vice-president with co-vice-president Cheryl (Mills) Uhlacher, Class of '72, in charge of cooking the meal and the décor for the awards. Patty (Purcell) '82 and Kenneth

Goodenow '83 serve as secretary and treasurer. This year's co-editors of The Alumni News were Janet (Cole) Larreau '78 and Darlene Rimpley.

Allison said that without the Alumni board members, including Caro (Keyser) Lehmkuhler, Josh Magill, Betty (Halstead) Yeargain, Bev (Harding) Engleman, and Even Beusher - along with all of the officers - Alumni would not be possible.

Serving of the meal will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and the program will start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be on sale May 27 and 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and on the 29th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the Rialto Theatre.



Courtesy photos

2009 classmates and friends Allison (Rosentrater) Goodenow (left) and Mackenzie (Ferguson) Kulp (right) will preside over the 2021 A.H.S. Alumni Reunion. Allison is the current president and Mackenzie and Allison will serve as co-emcees.

Family of R.E. Allen Is Present for Rededication of Park



(From left) Village Superintendent Doug DeLaune, AEDC Director Cheryl Carson, and R.E. Allen's descendants, Carl and Cindy Gardner from Arizona, Donna McGuire and Dennis McGuire from Oregon, and Karen, Dustin, and Todd Miller from California, stand in front of the new city park sign rededicated to the Allens last Friday. The Allens founded the town in 1880 and donated land for the park in later years.

The city park was rededicated to R.E. Allen - the founder of the town of Arnold - last Friday, May 21st. Several of Allen's descendants were present for the ceremony from the states of Arizona, Oregon, and California. Standing in front of the newly installed brick pillar entrance to the park, it was an emotional moment for the family as the covered art deco-style sign reading R.E. & L.L. Allen Memorial City Park was unveiled for the first time.

"We were speechless," said Allen's great-grandson Dennis McGuire. "Emotional with a Capital E," said another great-grandson, Todd Miller.

In October of 2020, McGuire sent a request to the Village Board that the name of the Arnold City Park be returned back to the name of the R.E. Allen Park. The land for the park was given to the town by Allen from the R.E. Allen Addition.

McGuire mainly worked with AEDC Director Cheryl Carson in planning the project. The family paid for one-half the cost of the sign.

Todd's 101-year-old father from Arizona was able to view the rededication through Zoom.

The family has all spent time in Arnold and take great pride in their family history.

"Arnold still has the same feel to it. It's a warm and friendly feeling," said McGuire.