

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2021

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Courtesy photo

(From left) Peter Koubek, Dot Koubek, Cathy Koubek Rothmeyer and Angie Koubek Fisher, who were in town for a family reunion in July, stand in front of the historical markers placed at the former location of the Koubek Locker building site. The landscaped area is now called Koubek Gardens.

payment on an individual basis, often in exchange for goods, produce, or services. Koubek Lockers was open seven days a week. Frank's sons all helped in the market and delivered groceries. The market was kept open longer on Saturday and Wednesday, so that patrons could shop before attending movies at the Rialto, and then pick up their groceries afterward. ~ One Koubek grandchild recalled, “Often after closing, local businessmen would gather around the back-room potbelly stove for camaraderie.” Sunday hours were extended just enough for patrons to pick up that last ingredient for Sunday dinner. ~ Frank's sons Arland (Pete), and Robert (Bob) kept the business open after Frank passed in 1964. As Frank's grandchildren grew, they also worked at ‘the butcher shop’ helping with butchering, processing, rendering, stocking shelves, and cleaning. Pete and Pat, Bob and Dot, and children spent many hours sterilizing all equipment each day and scrubbing down points of contact to ensure that everything was as clean as possible. Pete and Pat Koubek were still running the store when it closed in the early 1970's. (Increased regulations in the meat industry required that Frank's 1940's remodeling would have

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## Sentinel Welcomes CC Fair Pictures

The Custer County Fair officially begins tomorrow, July 30, and will continue through August 5, at the fairgrounds in Broken Bow. As usual, *The Sentinel* will be publishing results of our local youth after fair is over. Fair participants are welcome to submit photos to arnoldsentinel@gpcom.net.

Please e-mail the photo in full size and identify the participant, including a description for the photo caption. Due to space limitations, photos will be selected based on quality and the contestant's placing in the event.

### Kraisinger Meat Market (Circa 1920) - Sanitary Meat Market (1923) - Koubek Lockers (1940)

The lots where Koubek Garden is now located were staked out in 1884. John Menary purchased five lots for a Harness Shop south of the Pioneer Store (BrewBakers). Butcher, Adolph Kraisinger built a small brick meat market (sometime before 1920) just to the south of Menary's Harness Shop. The bricks for Kraisinger's store were made at the site. Frank Koubek and his wife Katie (Janesofsky) moved from Sargent to purchase Adolph's Meat Market in 1923. ~ Katie's parents, Peter and Mary Janesofsky lived in Sargent. Not long after Mary's death, Peter and two of Katie's sisters, Mrs. Stanley (Mary) Seda and Mrs. William (Emma) Weinman joined Katie and Frank in Arnold. Peter passed away about 13 months after his wife Mary's death. ~ The three Jane-

sofsky sisters were ‘half – first cousins’ to my Grandmother Mary Tomes Codr. (The four ladies’ dads, Peter Janesofsky and Alouis Tomes had the same mother, Katerina.) I remember my grandma talking fondly of her three Arnold “cousins”. ~ After purchasing Kraisinger's Meat Market, Frank Koubek changed the name of the market to “Sanitary Meat Market”. At that time, his store sold only meat. Frank made cleanliness a high priority with all equipment being sanitized and scrubbed daily. Fresh meat was brought from the slaughterhouse within minutes after the butchering was complete. ~ (That slaughterhouse can still be seen by the South Loup River just west of Arnold.) During Koubek's ownership of the meat market, he made extensive changes to the store adding more store space and eventually meat lockers for his customers. Remodeling was done in two phases. In the mid

to late 1920s, Frank added on to the back of the lot up to the original exit doors of the Rialto, which were located behind the butcher shop. Then, in the 1940s, Frank decided to enlarge the little brick building. Frank's decision filled in the only remaining empty space on Main Street. In this final addition, meat lockers were added, and Frank changed the store name to Koubek Lockers. He rented locker spaces that would hold 225 pounds of frozen meat; the cost for this service was only \$10 per year. Fortunately for Frank, all of the lockers were spoken for before they were even completed. ~ Despite home freezer availability in the 1950s when the store closed, half of the lockers were still being rented into the early 1970s. ~ As Frank's store became larger, he was able to add a line of grocery items and produce. He always made sure that children who came to his store were treated with one of his

tasty “old country style” wieners to enjoy while their parents shopped. However, the penny gumball machine filled with gumballs and various trinkets was also a “hit” for the children. Many folks remember the open candy containers filled with a variety of chocolates and confections. Shoppers would fill their candy bags with their favorite treats that would then be weighed at the counter. In the early years, the 1920s - 1930s prices were very low; bread sold for six cents and a pound of coffee was 21 cents. The 1930s were hard on everyone, farmers and merchants alike. Frank worked out

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