

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Stapleton Couple Purchases Triangle Lanes



Courtesy photo

Amber and Mitch Tatman took ownership of Triangle Lanes bowling alley in Arnold effective October 1.

By Janet Larreau

Stapleton residents Mitch and Amber Tatman became the new owners of Triangle Lanes bowling alley in Arnold effective October 1, purchasing the business from long-time owners Dell and Chyrel Cerny. Both Mitch and Amber work

at North Platte - Mitch as a mechanic at Union Pacific Railroad, and Amber is employed in the emergency room at Great Plains Health. Amber is also an EMT on the Stapleton/Fire Rescue. Their four children include Abilene, a 6th grader; Dalton, a 3rd grader; Raymond, a 2nd grader; and the littlest is Amelia, who

is 19 months old. All three of the older kids attend Stapleton Public Schools.

“We were interested in buying the alley because it continues the legacy that Dell and Mr. Watson before him started. It gives the kids something to do; it gives families something to do, and somewhere to make memories. Our kids all seem

excited about the purchase and this adventure,” said Amber.

Mitch is an avid bowler. He has over a 200 average and has bowled a 300 game. The couple has traveled the U.S. for nationals and the state of Nebraska for state bowling tournaments for many years. Amber said they spent their honeymoon in Syracuse, New York, for nationals.

The couple plans to do some updating to the bowling alley, adding more backlights for cosmic bowling and a fresh coat of paint on the walls. They have dreams of expanding down the road and bringing back the snack part of the alley, but for now will focus on what they have first and work from there.

As far as hours, right now the bowling alley has leagues on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights. They are still looking for more bowlers on the women’s league on Tuesdays and the men’s league on Wednesdays. Aside from that, the Tatmans are hoping that by the end of this year, they will have the updates done, and be able to open the alley up for open bowling. They plan to do some cosmic bowling, as well as family nights and Sunday Fundays. The bowling alley is also available for birthdays, holidays, family parties, and field trips for surrounding schools.

The Cernys purchased the bowling alley in 1979 from Stu Watson, and Dell said it was time.

“I was either going to have to close it or let someone else have it. Physically, we aren’t able to do anything anymore,” he said.

“Dell has been an amazing support through this, teaching us the machines and how he has ran the business. Even after October 1st, he has been at the bowling alley, still making sure things run smoothly and helping us fix and learn,” said Mitch

The Tatmans said they have gotten a lot of thanks, and friends that they have had conversations with have seemed very supportive and excited for them and the business. They are very excited to meet members of the community.

The couple asks everyone to be sure and like Triangle Lanes on Facebook to keep an eye on open bowling days and times coming up and to contact them. They can also be reached by phone or e-mail. Amber’s number is: 308-520-9831, Mitch’s is 308-660-4257, and their e-mail address is: trianglelanesbowling@gmail.com.

Halloween Activities

In case you missed last month’s Chamber report, plans are being made for the annual Halloween carnival. The community center will be closed the entire month of October for new flooring, so things will be a bit different this year. Events will be held Friday, October 29. Plans for now are a scavenger hunt and parade through downtown businesses. More information will be provided as organizers meet.

Chamber is also planning to name the best decorated house for Halloween, with a prize.

Historical Marker Placed at Former Location of Ervin’s Cafe

Arnold Rotary Historical Marker project coordinator Berni Crow has placed a marker at the former location of Ervin’s Café. The marker - which tells the story of the location’s history - reads as follows:

Amos and Annie Ervin’s Café, Tourist Cabins and Filling Station - 1925

In 1926, this spot was a thriving triple purpose business for Annie and Amos Ervin who had started building in 1925. They were able to meet the needs of many travelers, with their gas station, two cabins for sleepy travelers, and a café. Business was good along Hwy 92, known as the “White Way Highway” those days. Annie had continued working in the Ervin’s business, but the facility changed ownership several times. Annie would always get it back until another person would try their hand at running all three facets of the business. She finally sold it all to Earl (Abe) and Maud Gallington. They and daughter Vera had managed a café in Sutherland and came to Arnold in 1955. Darlene Rimpley remembers when the Gallingtons had the tourist cabins, and recalled that some folks used the cabins as their home. Fondly, Darlene stated, “The kids (including herself) would go there for their good food! The fifteen-cent hamburgers were so good!” Following Abe’s death, Maud and Vera managed to keep the cabins, café, and station open until 1978, selling it to Robert and Jean (Miller) Flint that same year. “Gallington’s had a sale and I purchased a night table for \$25 that still sits by my bed.”

The Flints cleared the old building and built a brand new fast-food cafe naming it the “Longhorn Inn.” (The cabins remained behind the new structure for several years.) With help from Rex McCain, Emmett Thoms, and Bud Steburg, only the walls and roof were constructed until more money became available. Gene Gracey and Robert would ride their horses inside the building on the unfinished dirt floor. Later on, the floor was completed thanks to a community benefit. Frosty Ferguson sold Purina Feeds at his F & F Eleva-

tor. Purina offered to have a free Benefit BBQ for the entire community with Frosty Ferguson in charge of the meat. The Arnold Bank, PCA, and Ferguson’s elevator also helped put on this benefit.

During its short tenure as the Longhorn Inn, Jean shared a story about Bud Beshaler, who brought in a longhorn steer and penned it near the café. The steer was their mascot for about a week.

For a short while, Dan and Lila (Downing) Johnson ran the café, but Robert and Jean soon took over again in 1981. Their goal for the establishment was to “provide a place for the kids.” Jean told the kids, “It’s your place, you choose the name, so they did. The “Longhorn Inn” became the “Cardinal Inn.” Jean reminded her help that when 3 p.m. rolled around, the jukebox would be turned up for the students getting out of school. Jean added, “We made it a point to stay open until all sports buses were back to town, which was quite late sometimes, but the grill was always on.” Clara Teahon (Charlie’s wife) was the main cook. The Flints had many great helpers through the years including Fran Hagler, and Connie Crow. Connie convinced her bosses that she could handle everything while they went on a very needed vacation. (When you’re in charge of an eating establishment, it’s hard to get out of town.) All four of the Flint’s children: Ronda, Bobby, Shad, and Mike also worked in the Cardinal Inn. Even Mike, at a very young age, would count back change when patrons paid for their meal. He was so young that when he played pool with the older kids, he had to put the cue over his shoulder so it could reach the ball. One time, while playing with Clark McConnell, Clark accidentally shot a pool ball right through the east door of the Inn. The Arnold Rotary Club had many weekly meetings in the Cardinal Inn after the Model Café closed. A talented Arnold wrestler, Markey Peterson, did some surprise artwork for the Flints. His media was a table, catsup, mustard, salt and pepper, and he shaped those ingredients into a Cardinal (team mascot at



Courtesy photo

Joe Bob Atkins and Mary Carlson stand by the historical marker placed at the former location of Amos and Annie Ervin’s café , tourist cabins and filling station. Mary operated the Cardinal Inn at the historic location, and Joe Bob later completely renovated the Cardinal Inn building to house his insurance business.

that time). Unfortunately, Jean didn’t get a photo of what she said, “turned out to be a pretty amazing piece of art.” Yes, Markey got to clean it up! Another memory that Jean shared was the 50th Anniversary celebration of Clara and Charlie Teahon. The Cardinal Inn was closed from Friday through Sunday for the celebration, and the guests danced, ate, and played music 24-7! Jean recalled having Carmen and Wilbur Purcell’s children play their guitars for the high school students to dance to.

After almost 20 years (1978-1987) of running the Cardinal Inn, Flints sold it to Donald and Martha Wagner who ran it for a short time. In 1987, the Cardinal Inn was sold once again, this time to Mary Carlson who owned it for approximately 20 years. Mary shared her most memorable moments, telling me that my son Scott was a good worker while he was

there, but quit because he didn’t like doing dishes!! Crow shared that Mary was a really good boss, and that she showed him how to make Dorothy Lynch salad dressing from scratch, still his favorite to this day. One busy Saturday night stands out in her memory. Mary vividly remembers that a small, slender, dark haired mustached man ordered food then slipped out of the building without paying. She dashed out to the parking area, finding that they were still there. Mary grabbed the arm of the driver reminding him to “pay up!” He remarked, “The food was cold and the hamburger wasn’t any good anyway!” Carlson curtly responded, “Well I shouldn’t have to worry about you coming back!” He paid and was never seen again. Perhaps her favorite memory was of her daughter Corina and Mike Flint’s wedding reception in

the Cardinal Inn. Many folks enjoyed the dancing, food, and friendship reliving the good old times of Saturday night dances. Carlson concluded, “I think the ole’ building enjoyed the reliving of the dances.” Shortly after her arrival to the Inn, about 5 a.m. one Sunday morning, a patron entered. She kindly told him that she wasn’t open yet, and returned to her tasks in the kitchen. About 20 minutes later he asked for a cup of coffee and she obliged. Her guest had been sitting in the dark and promptly at 6:00 a.m., she turned on the lights, asking what he’d like for breakfast. He gave his order and asked, “Do you know the time changed last night? It is 7:00 a.m. now!” Mary said she just hoped Reverend Jennings would forgive her.

In 2016, Joe Bob Atkins pur-

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