

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Love Blooms

in high school for Arnold couple

they would get in free.

When they were sophomores, they broke up for a time. Laughing, Mary said, “He wanted to chase other girls.” At that, Maurice just grinned. The breakup lasted about six months while they dated others, but love won out. They both remember the exact date of when they got back together: March 17, 1958.

Back on track, they decided when they were seniors to make it semi-official. At Christmas time, they shopped around in North Platte and Gothenburg and ended up buying an engagement ring at Edmiston Jewelry right here in Arnold.

Maurice and Mary graduated from A.H.S. in May of 1960, but decided to wait to get married to “grow up a little more.” So



Photo/Debbie Connely

Maurice and Mary Andre hold a framed photo of their wedding day back in 1961.

they waited until April 8, 1961, for a wedding.

Mary’s mother, Catherine, said to Mary, “Do you know what you are doing?” Of course,

Mary, being a very wise 18-year-old, knew that love took care of everything and life would be great. When Maurice was asked what his parents said, he replied that they did know about the engagement, but they learned the details for the wedding when they read the engagement announcement in the paper.

There were several moves for employment before they settled back in Arnold in 1965. Maurice worked at Koubek Lockers for a year and a half and then began employment with Arnold Public Schools as custodian and a bus driver, which lasted for 39 years. He also started his own business, Andre’s Body Shop.

Over the years, Mary baked bread and cinnamon rolls to help pay the bills and she did home health care for older people for a number of years. Much of her work was night care in North Platte, Gothenburg, Broken Bow, and of course, Arnold.

Through the years they established a large family line with the births of their seven children: Eugene, Richard, Norman, Mike, Colleen, Jolleen, and Roger.

As with all married couples, arguments arose. When asked how, or what, they did to settle them, it was simple: they dropped the subject.

Maurice said, “I also have the shop to go to.”

The most frequent argument is what to watch on TV. Maurice goes for westerns and Mary

tolerates them.

Their “dates” in the last years have consisted of attending their 15 grandchildren’s events in Denver (Norman lives there), Omaha (Mike now lives in Elkhorn), Alma (Roger’s home), Callaway (Jolleen’s home), Hastings (Colleen’s), Ogallala (Richard’s), and Arnold (Eugene stayed in his hometown). The grandchildren are grown now and in various locations, so the dates to their events are limited. But they do have four great-grandchildren growing up.

These days are a little more settled. Mary has a big garden and lots of flowers each year, which she is proud of. Her garden supplies produce that she gives away and her flowers beautify the area. Maurice mows several lawns and just takes it easy. Dates now are usual coffee times every morning at one of the local cafes, doctor’s appointments and church.

Of course, age brings some health problems. Both Maurice and Mary have injured an arm, which limits some of their activities. Since Mary injured her left arm in a fall and Maurice injured his right arm years ago, and did not have surgery on it, it has been suggested that they walk close together so they have a good pair of outside arms.

Lots of laughter interlaced their interview. Happiness and love is definitely present in the Maurice and Mary Andre home as Valentine’s Day approaches.



Courtesy photo

Rogers Wins 2nd Place at VOD Contest

Local VFW Commander Gene Tullis and American Legion Post 130 Commander John Phillips were very proud when Arnold sophomore Delaney Rogers (center) won 2nd place at the District level in the Voice of Democracy contest. The two men traveled to Ord to receive Delaney’s award when she was unable to. Delaney received a \$100.00 prize for placing 1st at the local level and \$75.00 at the District level. Voice of Democracy (VOD) is an annual nationwide scholarship program sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). It is an audio-essay contest for high school students in grades 9-12. The program annually provides more than \$2.3 million in scholarships.

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Courtesy photo

All of the Arnold Rotary Club members who have the distinction of being Paul Harris Fellows lined up for a photo at the club’s January 27 meeting. From left to right, are Dell Cerny, Kelli Blevins, Jerry Ahrens, Echo Pelster, Irv Jennings, Al Bishop, Ron Cool, Special guest Deb McCaslin, District Governor nominee, Mary Becker, Bill Williams, Becky Dailey and Kathy Schweitzer.

Paul Harris Fellows Recognized at Rotary Meeting

On January 27, the Arnold Rotary Club had the honor of bestowing three Paul Harris Fellows. This is an award that is given when \$1,000.00 is donated to the Rotary Foundation in their name. The money is used to fund worldwide proj-

ects, including in the United States, that contribute to clean and available water for people, health projects such as building and giving needed health care, and education projects such as providing books, computers and other equipment to

increase literacy. Jerry Ahrens, Echo Pelster, and Bill Williams were the three new recipients.

Rotary District 5630’s District Governor Nominee, Deb McCaslin from the Broken Bow Club, was the guest speaker.

She talked about how the

money given to the Foundation helps vaccinate children against polio, helps fund clinics to repair cleft palates, and helps to dig new wells for clean water in places like Haiti. Deb will become the official district governor in July of 2022, when

the new governor takes over. Bob Mayben from North Platte is the current district governor.

Irv Jennings is the current Arnold Rotary Club president.