

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Photo/Debbie Connely

With AEDC Director Cheryl Carson overseeing, (from left) Junior Chamber members Piper Strasburg, Walter Bierman, Anna Tullis, and Ella Cool pack welcome bags for new residents.

Junior Chamber Members Helping Welcome New Residents

Four Junior Chamber members were forming an assembly line in the AEDC office last week to pack welcome bags for new residents. Items going into the bags ranged from business cards, pens, flyers, calendars, key chains, keychain flashlights, Milwaukee markers, Yoli drink samples, plastic back massagers, mini Scentsy burners and wax bars, several discount coupons and a current issue of The Arnold Sentinel. Overseeing the group of teens was AEDC Director Cheryl Carson.

The welcome bag project originally began in April of 2019 as a partnership between Chamber and the Economic Development Corporation. It has been

an ongoing project, but Carson said help was needed with updating supplies and packing more bags.

This is the first year Arnold Chamber has had “Junior Members” and until now, they only saw each other in that capacity once a month at the regular Chamber meeting. The students are able to listen and participate in discussions during those meetings, the same as the adults. Aside from the meetings, they may have the availability to participate in a community event; other than that, there wasn’t a project they could really work on exclusively.

“I thought (the welcome bag project) would be a great way

for them to participate more, learn how to work through a project, have ownership of something important, gain a learning experience, and also give me the much needed help I could use,” said Carson.

Since some materials for the bags were out of date and others were running low, if not completely out, it was pretty much like starting over. There are a number of Junior Chamber members, but they were not required to participate. Seven volunteered throughout the process. Piper Strasburg has acted as project leader, with Walter Bierman, Eli Rogers, Delaney Rogers, Evelyn Wonch, Anna Tullis, and Ella Cool following her instructions.

Students inventoried existing items, made note of who they needed items from, contacted businesses and talked to owners, making arrangements for pick up or drop off. During assembly, they kept track of what materials were left and if more would be needed for a later date. This time, they decided to help deliver. They were guided, but yet did the project on their own.

“They have been a big help,

and I have certainly enjoyed working with them. I believe this is something we will do each year with the junior members who wish to participate,” said Carson.

New residents are offered a notification slip from the Village office and they have the option to receive a welcome bag or decline. Five new residents will receive a bag in the very near future.

Bike Rally Is This Weekend

Bikers will be riding into town this weekend for the Devil’s Den Motorcycle Rally set for July 8 and 9 at the Arnold Recreation Area.

Friday’s events are free, with the gates opening at 5:00 p.m.

On Saturday, registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. for the poker run that starts at 11:00 a.m.

The Show & Shine will be held from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Entertainment over the weekend will be provided by the Craig Furne Experience, Phil Koubek project, and Cliche.

For more details go to FaceBook @ Devil’sDenMotorcycleRally.

Sticky Note Commitment

It’s time to get those ideas rolling! Arnold Community Foundation fund members will soon contact all the ambitious and dedicated community members and business owners who signed their names to sticky notes and committed to an area(s) of interest at the community vision meeting held back in March. Facilitating the enthusiasm of brainstormed dreams for Arnold into action is their next step. The ACF fund members have been busy developing a structured grant process to encourage 1-, 2-, 5-, & 10-year strategic planning for the eight key categories identified from the vision meeting.

ACF president Jen Dalrymple shared, “We have confidence in this process and plan to make available significant funds to demonstrate our support.”

Once the ACF fund members

have lined up the initial meeting, those who choose to be involved can decide leadership, priorities, and plans to turn dreams into realities. If you weren’t at the vision meeting, but you would like to be involved in building a positive future for Arnold, please contact the listed fund member to find out about the initial meeting date. The ARNOLD COMMUNITY VISION INITIATIVES [AVI] and contact person are:

- Business & Economic Development - Becky Dailey;
- Downtown Renovation - Holly Hornung Remund;
- Historical Museum - Renee Bubak;
- Housing - Shane Cool;
- Library - Gary Blevins;
- Medical Facilities - Jen Dalrymple;
- Recreation - Cord Hesseltinge;
- School - Joel Morgan

Marker Tells History of Arnold Mercantile Co. Building

Rotary’s Historical Marker Project Coordinator Berni Crow has placed a marker at the Arnold Mercantile Company building. Following is how the marker reads:

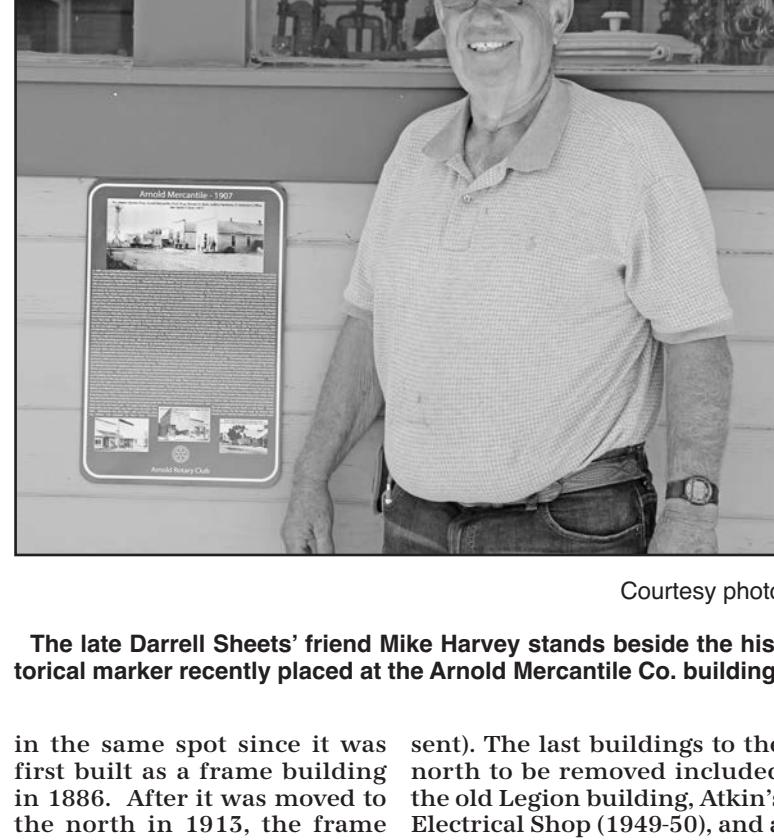
Arnold Mercantile Company - 1907

In 1907, some of Arnold’s leading businessmen formed a joint stock company and bought the lot between the Finch Drug Store and Emery Parson’s Harness shop. Originally, Mrs. William (Sarah) Simpson lived in a house on that site. They moved her house to the north part of Arnold. The company then proceeded to construct a frame building, with a large cellar, for use as a general store. The building even had a three-lane “Duck Pin” bowling alley located in the basement. The men named their new business “Arnold Mercantile Co. - Arnold’s Old Reliable Store”. Their Mercantile ad stated, “Arnold’s Old Reliable Store” was never in a better position to offer you bargains in ‘Staple and Fancy Groceries’, than it is at the present time.” The business became a very profitable venture that lasted over ten years (1907-17). The company had purchased a harness, a wagon, and a fine team to pull it, thus allowing them to take trips to Callaway to deliver the Arnold farmer’s eggs and cream. Sam Reed, the driver, hauled goods back to Arnold that he’d collected from the Callaway Railroad. In the summer of 1908, Arnold’s Correspondent for the county newspaper, Mrs. Reed, watched Arnold Mercantile Company load a shipment of ninety-dozen eggs. All 90 dozen had been purchased within two days. Reed also reported that 3600 dozen eggs were shipped out from three stores in one month. Carl Stoneberg’s “Little Frame Store” was probably the next business located here for just a short while, circa 1922-1924. (The years stated for some of the next occupants/businesses are as ac-

cute as possible through the information that I was able to find.) Next to own the property were Mr. and Mrs. William Conrad, who had come to Arnold in 1912. Initially, they were partners with John Jameson in Charlie Vogel’s building (located just south of the old Spargo’s Store). In 1924, Conrad & Jameson dissolved their partnership and William Conrad bought Carl Stoneberg’s store. Conrad Mercantile operated in this location 1924-1925, before moving their business to the north part of the Fred Brown building (Reeds Grocery). They sold their business in 1938, after 26 years of mercantile service to the Village of Arnold (1912-1938). (The years 1927-1932 eluded my research.) Possibly the next business that found a home at this location, was Harry Will’s Grocery Store. He moved his grocery from the north part of the Finch Drug that had burned, to the adjoining space Circa 1932-1934. Will then sold his grocery to Aaron Stauffer, who sold it to Vernon Smith and Maurice Troyer. Later in the 1930s, this building housed the “Art Hutchins’ Shoe and Harness Shop” (1935-36). It’s likely that the I.O.O.F. hall was located here after Art’s Shoe Shop closed. On April 13, 1905, the Arnold I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 297 was instituted... meeting place unknown. Later, during the winter of 1915-16, they decided to organize a Rebekah Lodge in Arnold. Upon canvassing a list of Odd Fellow wives, on March 6, 1916, a group of 48 charter members were instituted into the Arnold Rebekah Lodge No. 325. Then in early 1917, A Rebekah Kensington was organized (A.R.K) and soon had a membership of 33. The Oddfellows met in this building for quite a few years, but it’s uncertain when the I.O.O.F. and Rebekah Lodge discontinued their meetings and services. Around 1996-97, Connally & Julie Barton planned to have an antique store on these premises, with Connally selling/repairing guns in the back. After going to auctions and gathering

inventory, it wasn’t long before it was apparent to the Bartons that the building was not big enough for their collection of antique items. So, this building remained as a storage area while the Bartons were getting the old hardware store (Brew-bakers), ready for their antique store. Darrell Lee Sheets, the most recent owner of this building, purchased it in 1998. Darrell’s desire was to return it to its original look from the early 1900s. Upon purchase, Darrell immediately tore down the lean-to shack on the back of the building and began the process of renovating the interior of the building. Armed with a photo from that era, and the help of Mo Sandford, the two men achieved Darrell’s goal. It was a long tedious process. The original windows had been boarded over and had to be replaced. The two men placed a unique etched glass picture above the door inside.

The etching displayed a hay rack pulled by horses, while men are shown piling hay on the rack. In the background, three women are piling hay on the ground. The etching was found in the old Vogel building that Sheets and Sandford had torn down for the bricks. The glass etching is perfectly in tune with the theme of Darrell’s collection of haying antiques. His collection includes hay carrier equipment, hay forks, trolleys, old tools and wrenches. It’s a wonderful museum showing the tools of the haying process used in years past. Sheets was proud of his part in bringing back the past. Darrell passed away at age 78 on April 4, 2018. Hopefully, his museum of “haying legacy” will be shared with many folks in future. This west block of the village was home to several stores through the years. Due to the lack of enough information for individual stories for each building, the following notes describe some of those businesses and probable locations, including the years that they were located there (if known). Finch drug has been



Courtesy photo

The late Darrell Sheets’ friend Mike Harvey stands beside the historical marker recently placed at the Arnold Mercantile Co. building.

in the same spot since it was first built as a frame building in 1886. After it was moved to the north in 1913, the frame Finch Drug eventually became home to the Legion Hall (1917). Finch then built a new brick structure replacing the frame store. (Darrell Sheet’s building “Arnold Mercantile” was just north of the new brick Finch Drug having housed the businesses listed earlier.) The lot to the north of Sheet’s building was empty after Sarah Simpson’s house was moved. A Market soon filled the space circa 1912, followed by a Bakery around 1917. Probably, that same space housed a Café, UI Grocery Persus & Vernon Tubbs (1932-1937), and UI Grocery Lloyd & Alice Beltz (to 1939). The next space north was John Mead’s Harness Shop (prior to 1912), Emory Parson’s Harness Shop (1912-1925), Pete’s Body Shop (1953-1974), and presently it’s home to Fred Hatch’s Buildings (1974-pre-

sent). The last buildings to the north to be removed included the old Legion building, Atkin’s Electrical Shop (1949-50), and a Duplex House owned by Neil Coleman that Patty Lambert lived in, 1983 to 1992. One of her landlords was Muriel Maxon. Patty later moved to her present house when it came up for sale. The new Legion building was built in 1983. It was probably placed about where the Atkin’s Electric Shop and the old Legion was. The Legion building is now the last building to the North in that block.

(Some information for this marker was taken from the book, “One Hundred Years On The South Loup” by Norene Hall Mills. Information was also taken, with permission, from Kendra Vier’s Sentinel article on Darrell Sheets’ building. Written and prepared by Berni Crow 4/21/24.)