

MEETING?

Because of COVID-19, the PCHS Annual Meeting has been postponed until the Museum can safely reopen.

As soon as a date for our Annual Meeting & Program is known, we will be sure to let everyone know!

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AFTER REOPENING: SUMMER HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9 to 5
Saturday - Sunday: 1 to 5

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www.nebraskaprairie.org

FACEBOOK

Nebraska Prairie Museum

From The President

By Nancy Morse

LA FRANCE FIRE TRUCK: One of the first things to notice when entering the Town Square from the Kitchen/Meeting Room area is our 1922 LaFrance Fire Truck display, complete with fireman's pole and a fireman ready to save a burning building. The first Holdrege Fire Department was organized on April 14, 1886, well before the time of motorized fire equipment. The first fire truck used by Holdrege was purchased in June 1916, and was a Buick chassis made into a fire truck. This "homemade" truck was replaced in 1923 with the 1922 LaFrance Truck. This truck was purchased for \$8,000 and was first used to fight a fire at East Ward School which unfortunately burned to the ground. The last time the truck was used was to fight the Linder Garage Fire in 1947.

OUR AMAZING STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS have been diligently working to bring the Museum back better than ever!

Sheila Seyfried has given our Steinway Grand Piano a fresh look with a good polishing. She is also busy putting wheels on display cabinets so they can be moved around easier.

Brenda Phelps has found numerous small treasures in cabinet drawers that had previously escaped notice. She is having a great time pouring over these small items and plans to display them, along with descriptions of their use and age. One item she is thrilled about is a necklace which was purchased at Joan of Arc's home in France.

Sharon Johnson is busy planning what kind of flowers will be needed



Nancy Morse, President



La France Fire Truck

to beautify our Museum grounds for spring, summer and fall.

Shelly Schroder has the daunting task of updating the Museum's inventory. She has several loose leaf notebooks including one especially for dolls. She has a page for each doll which is to include an identification number, donor's name, and description of the doll including its date of donation and age. Everything the doll is wearing is also identified by description and donor. Imagine all this for everything in the Museum!!

Ken Bendorf has discovered the source of a water leak in the kitchen area, and plans are being made to take care of this problem.

Our group of volunteer "Train Engineers" are diligently working on the train displays. Most of the items that had been piled in the train area due to the flood have been removed so the trains can be enjoyed again without trying to avoid tripping over other Museum items. These trains are definitely worth a visit!

LONG GONE NAMES: There will probably always be Nelsons, Johnsons and Swansons around Phelps County, but there are also names that used to be well known and are no longer found in the area. One such name is my maiden name, Morrison. My great-grandparents, Richard and Elizabeth Morrison

immigrated to Nebraska from County Antrim, Northern Ireland in 1859, and moved to Phelps County in 1884. Their son, Richard Grant Morrison (named after Ulysses S. Grant) was my grandfather; and Richard Forrest (Frosty) Morrison and Violet Schrock Morrison were my parents. My father had a cousin, Neil Morrison, who lived near Bertrand. Neither Neil nor Frosty had sons so the name, Morrison, is gone from Phelps County. If someone knows of another name that is gone from the county, please contact me and I would like to feature your memories in a future Stereoscope.

BOOKS AT THE MUSEUM: The gift shop has a wide variety of books for sale. Two that I have recently read, and highly recommend are, "The Meaning of Names" by Karen Gettert Shoemaker and "This Blessed Earth" by Ted Genoways. The first is about a German family living in northeast Nebraska during World War I. It is fiction and describes the plight of loyal German Americans as they are viewed with suspicion by their neighbors. The second book is a true story of a modern day farm family near York, Nebraska. Please stop and browse—I'm sure you will find something to your liking.

—end

Museum Highlight

By Nancy Morse

In 1995, while going through my mother, Violet Schrock Morrison's papers, I came across this cartoon from May 1929, which was just a few months before the 1929 Stock Market Crash ushering in the Great Depression. It concerns a gentleman who wants to impress a lady, but is having trouble finding money to wine and dine her. Things do not go well for him! If only he had known how bad the next decade was going to be!!! This cartoon is framed and can be found on the east wall of the Town Square.



KUVR Radio

by Patti Simpson

Radio Station KUVR got its start here in Holdrege on October 22, 1956, when it went “on the air” for its first day of operation. Bill and Betty Rae Whitlock (WW Broadcasting Company) had been working towards this day for over a year to prepare for the maiden broadcast date. According to the Phelps County History book published in 1981, a great deal of engineering research and fulfilling of requirements for the Federal Communication Commission (F.C.C.) had to happen before the F.C.C. would give permission to begin construction of a radio station, and then more work before permission to begin broadcasting.

There were several local people who became the first stockholders in WW Broadcasting in 1957. These included: Richard Person, James F. Swanson, Gaylord Illingworth, John Dier, Dale Illingworth and Alfred Illingworth.

The initial construction engineering was done by Otis Oleson and Harold Erickson. Mr. Erickson served as Chief Engineer of KUVR from 1956 until his retirement in 1996.

The KUVR building is well known in downtown Holdrege. It’s located on the north side of the street at 613 4th Avenue. The familiar KUVR neon sign still glows brightly above the front door. Before KUVR purchased the building in 1958, it was owned and occupied by the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company until they built their new facilities at 5th and Garfield Streets. Well into the 1980s there was a telephone booth that stood outside the building right next to the front steps.

Today (2020) the building is still home to the station. The main floor of the small building has a reception area, three offices, restrooms, and three sound proof broadcast rooms with large heavy glass



windows for viewing. The smallest of these rooms is used to cut commercial advertising; Studio One, as it is called, is used for broadcasting and interviewing guests; and the studio in the middle is the main broadcast booth, housing the control board where the disc jockeys run the content. The building’s basement at one time held an office in the front next to the outside entrance. Now the basement is mainly used for storage.

The Whitlocks began the station with a crew of newsman, disc jockeys, salesman, a receptionist and engineer. In January 1979, I was hired by Dave Tucker as the KUVR receptionist. At that time, the KUVR staff averaged around 12 people.

Several radio personalities and sales personnel have called KUVR home over the years. My memories of Bill Whitlock include him smoking cigars. One day he came in puffing two in his mouth at once. Other KUVR employees over the years included General Manager and radio personality, Moe Milliken who was employed from 1966 to 1973; Station Manager Jack Stitzel who now resides in

(KUVR Continued on page 4)

(KUVR Continued from page 3)

Colorado; the late Dave Tucker who was employed as the General Manager from 1980 until his retirement in 2003; Sports Director Garry Meyers; Program Director, Howard Henderson; sales rep and morning personality, Hal Boettcher; Sales Manager, Kris Shaver; Engineer Harold Erickson from 1956 until his retirement in 1996; bookkeeper, Lillian Pelowski; other office staff including: Pat Lynch, Pat Guzman, Jean Isler, Kathy Ostendorf; and several radio personalities including: Dixon Powers, Dale Johnson, John Titus, Ralph Wall and most recently, the late Randy Isler who was well known and loved for his signature sports broadcasting.

KUVR sold advertising for their many featured programs geared around the community's needs. These included programs like: Betty Rae's Women's News where Betty Rae would discuss recipes and other issues important to women; the weekday morning program, Over the Back Fence, where individuals could advertise miscellaneous items for sale; a half-hour Sunday program hosted by John Titus known as The Swedish Hour, that featured hymns sung in Swedish; and the Saturday afternoon program Dial-A-Score where listeners could call in and find out the final score for a ballgame held that day. In the late 1970s and into the 1980s, KUVR even sponsored a Farm & Home Show at the Phelps County Ag Center. These were busy days at the radio station.



Photo taken from the 1981 Phelps County History Book: President Bill Whitlock, General Manager Dave Tucker, and Receptionist, Patti Simpson.

The type of music the station played has varied over the years from the oldies, to Top 40 and Rock to Country. Many nights DJs would take caller requests and play songs dedicated to someone special. In the early years, during the holidays, there was one very obnoxious record featuring dogs barking to the tune of Jingle Bells. One morning, a local sponsor came in to do her piece on the Over the Back Fence program. The DJ had just put on the barking dogs tune. Thoroughly annoyed with the song, the sponsor went into the control room, pulled the 45 record from the turntable and smashed it on the floor!

Several locally sponsored promotions were held including Wiener Wednesdays and many Christmas promos. Games were also played on the radio including BINGO and the popular Turkey Hunt, where the radio announcer would take the first, second or third caller. The caller would then guess how many "shots" it would take to get the turkey. The listeners would then hear a turkey gobble, followed by one, two or three gun shots. If the caller guessed the correct number of shots, they would win a turkey!

And who could forget the brown station wagon labeled as the KUVR Mobile Mic which was seen around the area whenever live broadcasts were being aired to promote a business or sporting event.

Many changes have taken place at KUVR over the years, but you can still tune in to 97.7 FM or 1440 AM to hear local news, sports, weather, and advertising. Recently Craig Larson, General Manager and CEO of the Nebraska Rural Radio Association (NRRA) announced they had purchased KUVR. Good things are still happening in the air waves, and I believe KUVR will continue to be an asset to the people of Holdrege and the surrounding areas for many years to come.

—end

F. Eugene Ostrand

Letter written by F. Eugene Ostrand, August 14, 1943, somewhere in Europe to his niece, Roberta (Schobourg) Knutson.



Dearest Roberta,

If your Uncle Gene can see to get this written he's going to write you a little birthday letter even tho' it will be late. I'm writing in my "jeep" by moonlight. Its such a beautiful moonlight night, I couldn't resist the opportunity to at least try it and now that I'm started, I find it doesn't go bad at all. Honey, I hope you have a very happy Birthday. Wish I were there to help you celebrate it. Maybe I will be next year. How would that be? I'll bet your Mommy and Daddy take you for a

swim on your birthday. They told me you like the swimming pool. You're really getting to be a big girl, aren't you? Your U. Gene won't know you when he gets home. I hope that won't be much longer. Tell your Daddy to tell the govt. to build that camp at Atlanta pretty big 'cause we're going to send lots of prisoners. Happy Birthday, Honey.

Love and kisses,
U. Gene



D-DAY June 6, 1944

By F. Eugene Ostrand

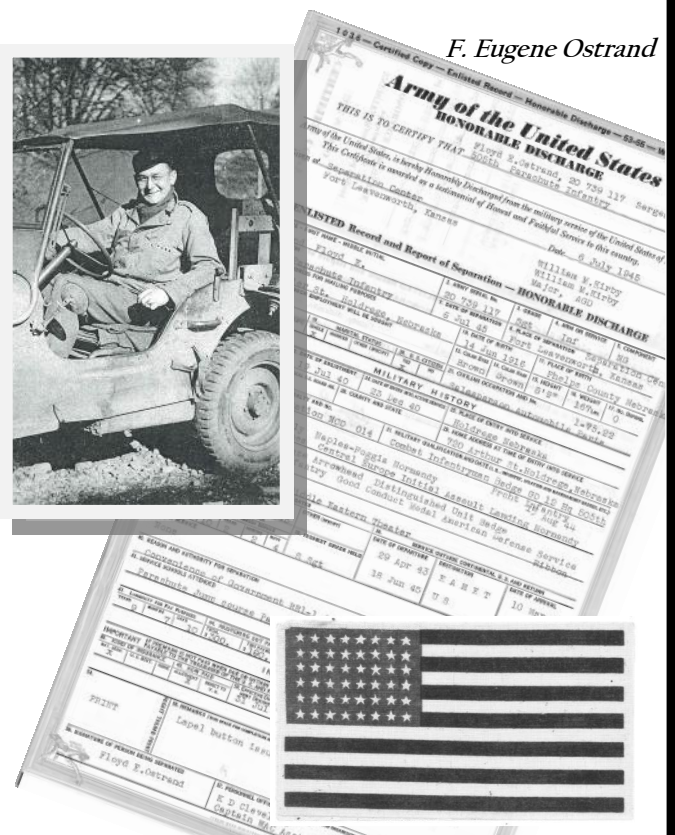
I was a paratrooper in the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. I had been the personal driver for the regimental executive officer, Lt. Col. Edward Krause. On D-Day I took a jeep into Normandy by glider, which, like most of the gliders, crashed. The lieutenant and I were only shaken up, so we pried open the glider's nose and cut loose the jeep.* Then we headed out to find our regimental command post, braving shelling all around us. We found the "CP" in the town of Ste. Mere-Eglise, where Col. Krause had just raised the first American flag to be flown over recaptured French soil. Krause first raised this flag over Naples, Italy, when we liberated that city in Sept. of 1943. This same flag supposedly is in the office of the mayor of Ste. Mere-Elise.

*As Ostrand was driving to find his headquarters, he experienced the greatest coincidence imaginable. Quote from Holdrege paper: "After his escape from the plane, Lundeen (Warner) rested in a ditch for a few minutes. At

that time he saw another person from Holdrege. Gene Ostrand, was driving by in a jeep. Lundeen said that he yelled at Ostrand, and he stopped. They talked for a few minutes and then Ostrand had to leave."
—end



F. Eugene Ostrand





Wheat Land For Sale

By Susan Perry

Back in 1912, Holdrege must have been a quite settled, prosperous town as local insurance/real estate agents were advertising a great land bargain. Ads were touting “the land where wheat is king” which was in Lost Valley, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Ladies and gentlemen, this offer was quite a proposition because it was “one crop often pays for the land on which it is raised.” These agent’s terms were “only one-tenth payment down; balance annually.” Price of the land ranged from \$20 to \$30 dollars an acre.

The Land

Where Wheat Is King
Lost Valley, Saskatchewan, Canada, where they raise a big crop every year. Where one crop often pays for the land on which it is raised.

If you are interested in a proposition of this kind we want you to go with us and see our lands.
Price of land ranges from \$20 to \$30 per acre.

\$20.00 Rate

In order to get our proposition before the people we have arranged to make a SPECIAL RATE of \$20.00 for our first excursion leaving Holdrege on No. 2

Tuesday, May 7, 1912

This includes round trip railroard fare, berths in our private Pullman cars and meals. In fact all exrenses.

For Further Information Call and See

Vermillion & Huff, Holdrege

LOCAL AGENTS
Wm. Pearson & Co., Ltd., Winnepeg

Guess these prospects would have to choose who to believe about paying for one of ‘only a few’ of these farms available.

Ah, but to dissolve any

doubts about this great opportunity, a train trip to see the available grounds was being arranged. Prospects would mark their calendar for May 7, 1912, when the first excursion would embark. For a SPECIAL RATE of \$20, each person had a round trip, a berth in the private Pullman cars and meals. In fact, all expenses. Dare we call such a trip a vacation?

I wonder how many went. I wonder how successful the venture turned out to be. I know that the area is still quite rural, with a small village of 362 in its midst. Makes me wonder if this was an enticing pipe dream which never flourished.

—end

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We have a complete line of Farms and City property in Phelps and adjoining counties--bargains worth your while to investigate. Come and see us about them.

CANADA LANDS

we have them--and are the only firm selling strictly from a price list--we can show you. Come and talk to us about our ready made farm proposition in the Lost Mountain Valley, Saskatchewan Canada; all ready to move on. Only one-tenth payment down; balance annually. Only a few of these farms--See us for full particulars.

See us about your insurance--we will save you money. 5 per cent loans made. Money at once when title is approved.

*We Solicit Your Business
We'll Treat You Right*

Swedburg & Schouboe
411 East Avenue. 1912

WILL THERE BE AN ANNUAL MEETING?

Well, let’s be honest. Do to the COVID-19 issues, we have NO idea when we can have our Annual Phelps County Historical Meeting. This is when we have a short meeting, hold our election of board members and enjoy a good program followed by refreshments.

BUT, what we CAN tell you is that we WILL have a meeting sometime!

Please be watching the Holdrege Daily Citizen, Facebook, and our web page: nebraskaprairiemuseum.com and be listening to KUVR radio too.

As soon as we know when we can safely meet, we will let you all know!

UNTIL THEN, PLEASE STAY SAFE!

The Museum And COVID-19

What a weird, unprecedented time we live in right now. But like everything in the past year, it's best to just keep making lemonade out of lemons.

How many of you have gotten long put-off projects done around the house now that you're cooped up? It's the same here at the museum, but maybe on a larger scale.

The staff and I have been furiously working on several ongoing projects here at the museum while we're closed to the public.

Melroy's Construction and K&D Electric have been working on projects around the museum too. Over the last two months, we've replaced some of the exterior steel doors that were beyond repairing; opened up an all new exhibit space along the north wall of the big main room; and installed new lighting and electrical boxes for both this new area, and our new animal room located in the Town Square.

The staff have been hard at work cleaning, painting, and putting together display cases. At the rate we're going, I'm hoping to unveil a whole new museum once things get back to normal, or whatever a new normal looks like. We've also just launched a new website. Please go take a look at it nebraskaprairiemuseum.com

—end



Micah Huyser,
Executive Director



Left: Former animal exhibit being carefully photographed, dismantled and moved to its new location in the Town Square.

Above: Construction of our new exhibit area gives us a lot of possibilities for future displays.

For the Love of Trains

By Patti Simpson

Soon, (very soon we hope!), patrons will be able to view the new HO and Garden Train displays running at top speed!

Last July, the train set designers and volunteers were just getting ready to open the new display to the public when the flood hit the museum. Now, the flood repairs and updates are just finishing up, and BAM! — COVID-19 hits and the museum, along with many other businesses, must close down for a time. I will say these road blocks did not derail the train crew, as they have continued to constantly improve and fine tune the display.

Please be watching for our own special “Golden Spike” dedication program and celebration when we can properly open the train display and celebrate the Museum being reopened!

Until then, please enjoy these photos of this wonderful and unique exhibit!

—end



Cathedral Window Quilt

By Mary Olson

“Unique,” “Pristine,” and “One-of-a-kind” are all words that describe the recently donated quilt to the Nebraska Prairie Museum.

The pattern is called “Cathedral Window,” and is creatively embellished with “yo-yos” at the intersections of the “windows.” This Cathedral Window quilt is the only example of that pattern in the Museum’s 200+ quilt collection.

This pattern gets its name from beautiful church windows. Traditionally, the “panes” are made from muslin or cheesecloth to create the light look of the window; the center of the window is often colorful and varied to replicate the stained glass. Yo-yos are made with circles of fabric with the edges of the circle stitched with a running stitch, and gathered to create the yo-yo. In this quilt, yo-yos were used at the corners of the windows. This particular quilt is made entirely by hand, and since it’s sized to fit a full-size bed, it has many stitching hours invested in it.

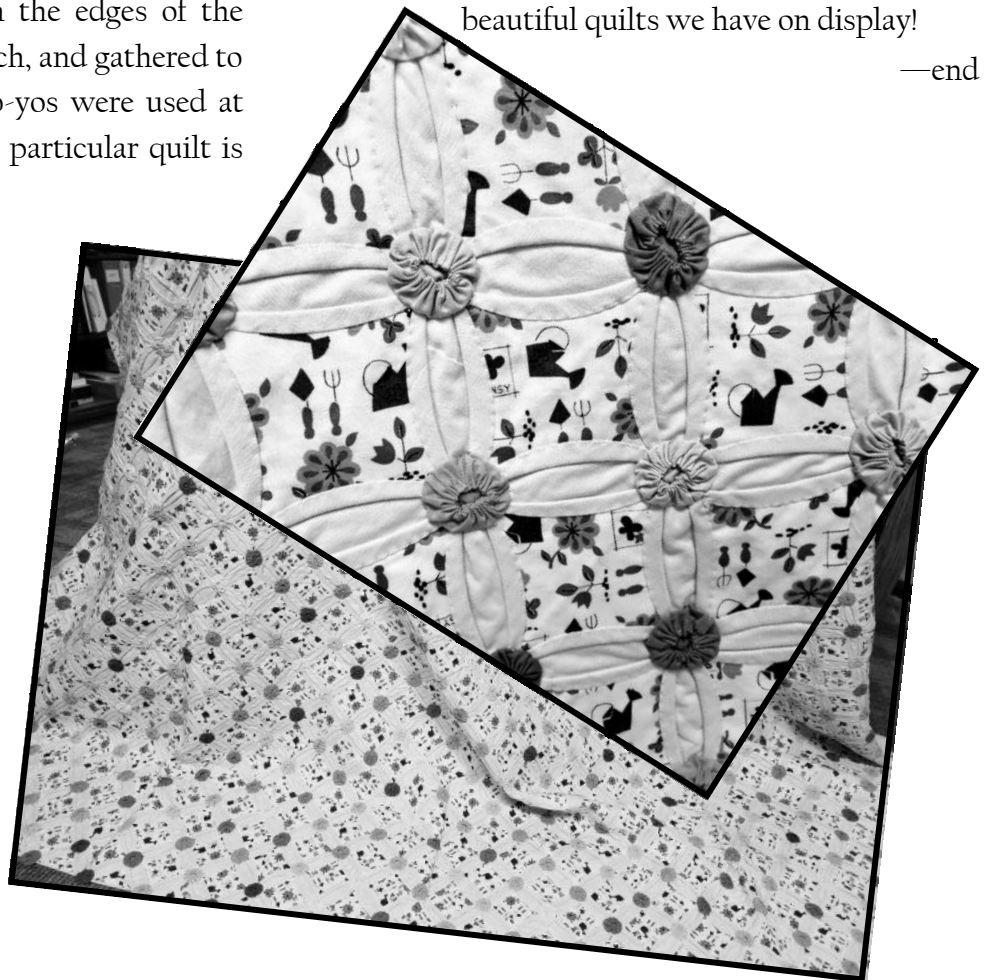
This quilt was donated to the Nebraska Prairie Museum by Mabel Strong, a long-time Holdrege resident. She purchased it at the Nels A. Kronquest estate sale in 1989. For many years, the Strongs owned and operated the Chevrolet dealership in Holdrege. The Kronquest name is associated with Kronquest Implement which was located in the building

now occupied by JB’s Sports Bar. Kronquest Implement was established in 1892 by Nels H. Kronquest and was continued by his son, Nels A. Kronquest.

At this time, we don’t know the maker of this quilt. If anyone knows more about it, we’d like to hear the story. Every quilt has a story: who made it, why they made it, who was it made for, is there a reason a particular pattern was chosen? Any history adds to the meaning of a quilt. We try to learn all we can about the quilts in the Museum’s collection, and we welcome your input!

When the COVID-19 restrictions have passed, and the Museum is once again open to the public, this quilt and others will be on display. Inside the Museum, many changes have been taking place during this shutdown, and we hope you’ll visit us in the near future to see our new look and enjoy the beautiful quilts we have on display!

—end



From the Editor

By Patti Simpson

We have all experienced and endured the many disruptions that COVID-19 has thrust upon us, and the Museum is no exception.

Many events were either cancelled or postponed indefinitely, and even yet today, we still don't know when we will be able to open up our doors to the public.

What I do know, however, is that the Museum is very busy getting ready for our new unveiling!

The flood repairs are complete! The damaged floors are now stained concrete, the rusted exterior steel doors have been replaced, and everything—and I mean everything—has a new coat of paint! The animals from the display in the main exhibit room are being merged with the animal display in the Town Square to make room for an expanded early Phelps County history display area. All display cabinets have been cleaned, repositioned and refilled with our antique treasures. The entire Town

Square has been “refreshed” with its many, many items that have been cleaned and repositioned. The new Train exhibit is up and ready to run, and plans are underway for new displays in the front area, including an expanded Plum Creek Massacre exhibit.

The Gift Shop area is also getting a face lift to make it even more friendly and inviting.

The Museum is still on schedule to host the 2020 Nebraska State Hand Cornhusking & Fall Festival which is set for Saturday, November 3, 2020. It will be a great day full of hand cornhusking, living history displays, music and food! There will be something for everyone!

If you would like to be a part of the festivities—either by being a hand cornhusking competitor, demonstrating a living history talent, or even helping out as a volunteer, please check out the applications now available online on the Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce's web page:

www.holdregechamber.com/2020-hand-cornhusking-competition

Everyone here at the Museum is looking forward to getting the “all clear” so we can open our doors to the public, and I sincerely hope all of you will make a point to come out and see YOUR Nebraska Prairie Museum.

It really is the best!

—end



Newly Refreshed Phelps County Town Display Rooms



Phelps County
Historical Society
Memorials/Honorariums
January 1, 2020 -
March 31, 2020

IMO Gloria Bryan

Bill & Susan Perry
Ronald & Kathryn Ronhovde
Vicki Westcott
Dr. Stuart & Lynn Embury
Keith & Rogene Samuelson
Donald & Sandra Kraus
Warner & Janice Carlson
David & Branda Wohlgemuth
Paula Titus
Michael Buettner
Dr. Wayne & Jerrie Quincy
Glenda Nelson
Brian & Julie Johnson
Joyce Burkholder
Arlene Mintzmeyer
Mary Nelson
Brad & Jana Swanson
Richard & Diane Rehnberg
Leigh Ann Poskochil
Gloria Bryan Estate

IMO Burdella Martin

Holdrege Bridge Group

IMO Carl Sjogren

Rodale & Renatte Emken
Vicki Westcott

IMO Duane Brand

Rodger & Marilyn Lien
John & Patty Abrahamson

IMO Edith Sims

Rodger & Marilyn Lien
Edith Sims Estate

IMO Gary Peterson

Kerry & Marlene Blythe

IMO LaMonte Lyon

John & Patty Abrahamson
Dennis & Susan Fulk
Russ & Kay Edeal

IMO Barbara Blackburn

Vicki Westcott

IMO Junetta Miska

Rodger & Marilyn Lien

IMO Brad Pearson

Jane Dahlstrom Quinn

IMO Charles Verbeck

Rodale & Renatte Emken

IMO George Nelson

Jane Dahlstrom Quinn

IMO Joan Yentes

Rodger & Marilyn Lien

IMO Larry Lindstrom

Jane Dahlstrom Quinn

IMO Max Heinz

Rodger & Marilyn Lien

IMO Rod Johnson

Jane Dahlstrom Quinn

IMO Sally Massey

Rodger & Marilyn Lien
Dr. Thomas & Shirley Smith

IMO Sally McMinnamen

Kathryn Anderson
Rodger & Marilyn Lien

IHO Bill Perry

Mary Anna Anderson

Phelps County
Community Foundation
Gifts

Bruce Hendrickson
Vicki Westcott

IMO Edith Sims

Doug & Patti Simpson

IMO Joan Yentes

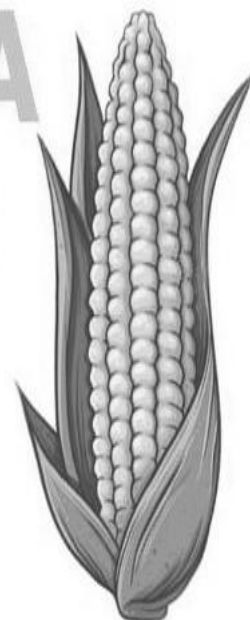
Doug & Patti Simpson

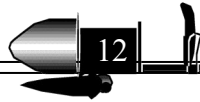
ALL GIFTS ARE VERY
MUCH APPRECIATED!



2020 NEBRASKA
HAND CORNHUSKING

OCTOBER 3, 2020
NEBRASKA PRAIRIE MUSEUM
HOLDREGE, NEBRASKA





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Permit #92

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Check us out on Facebook too!

Don O. Lindgren Genealogy Library

By Patti Simpson

The Genealogy Library at the Nebraska Prairie Museum may be closed to the public right now, but a couple of hardy volunteers are still out there, working on important projects while practicing social distancing skills.

Once the Museum gets an all-clear from COVID-19 and reopens to the public, please come on out to the Genealogy Library and see what we have going on. You will be surprised with all of the information they have on hand!

If you love history, and enjoy good company, please consider volunteering at the Genealogy Library. All skill levels are needed. From cutting

and gluing, to scanning and typing—everyone can find a job to be useful.

Library volunteers are special people. You can be one too! Come join us and be part of something that will benefit people for generations to come.

You'll be glad you did!

—end

