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The Arnold Sentinel

They've a Story to Tell

13th in a Series on Arnold's
"Young at Heart"
Residents

By Darlene Rimpley

In jest, first I want to tell you that Janet at *The Arnold Sentinel* did not know that I was doing the next series on her mom, Betty Cole. I did not want any undue influence being given to either Betty or myself.

As Betty and I sat visiting, we had many a laugh as we recalled early days at Arnold and at Arnold High. Betty was two years ahead of me in school, so we shared many of the same memories. But let us get on to the story of Betty Bean Cole.

Betty stressed that a story of one's life is actually a story of those who brought you into this world, and the ones who taught you by word or by deed, and all those you love and those who loved you.

Betty's father, Chester Bean, came with a brother and a cousin to Nebraska in the early 1900s, and settled near the community of New Hope, which is between Arnold and Gothenburg. There he met a young lady named Florence Dennis. Love prevailed, and they were married in 1909.

The young couple bought a farm south of Arnold that same year, and began a family with the addition of Lloyd, Walter and Lela, who died at the age of a year and a half, Francis and Lorine.

Chester built a large hog house with scales beside it to weigh trucks, and a chicken house. There was a windmill up on the hill above the buildings and water was piped down to all of the buildings, as well as

Betty Cole Recalls Life on the Farm as a Young Girl



If there's something going on in town, you can usually find now 84-year-old Betty Cole participating. Above, she holds prizes that she won at last year's Festival in handwriting and pie baking contests. (Sentinel photo)

sufficient water for the orchard they had started, and for the large garden they had each year.

They raised hogs and cattle, and had chickens. In 1929 Chester had just sold a load of hogs, took the check to the

bank to deposit, and the next day the bank closed. However, the young family struggled on, and in 1930, Marjorie was born, followed by Betty in 1932.

Chester had bought the lumber to build a new barn before the bank failures, so he went ahead and built a 24 station barn for the milk cows, with a barn on the other side for the work horses.

Her dad had made Betty and Marjorie toys out of a piece of wood with wheels from old machinery, and they could pretend it was anything they

Holy Cow! 1,000 Chickens

The Beans had 1,000 chickens, as the country needed a lot of eggs for the service men. One of their chores was to gather the eggs. Betty said that when doing this, they did not dare break one, as that was two cents. Feeding so many chickens meant lots of feed was purchased, and Betty used the printed flower sacks from the chicken feed to learn to sew so she could not only make her own clothes, but make sun suits and other clothing for her nephews. She also recalled that there were bags that were of heavier material, maybe oyster shell sacks, that they used to make sheets and towels, as well as other utilitarian items.

wanted it to be. Betty's "dolls" were the five nephews that her brothers and sister had given her, and she loved to play with them. After all those nephews, Betty got two nieces.

The children attended Yucca Valley school. They rode a horse or walked to school, except maybe in very cold or bad weather, when their dad would take them. One time, when they were riding to school, the horse, Trixie, who liked to shy and dump them off, did just that. Betty landed on her head and was knocked out. Marjorie drug her home, and when she woke up, she was laying on the couch.

Two special teachers that Betty remembered were Mildred Bailey (now Smith) and Doris Chesley. She said they both had such beautiful handwriting that she wished she could copy. Miss Bailey had a wonderful pen and pencil set, and Betty was sure that was why her writing was so pretty. If she, Betty, could just use the pencil out of the set, she could do as well. Miss Bailey let her use her pencil, but Betty found that the pencil was not magic like she thought it was.

At noon recess they played

baseball, and Betty was always the last one chosen. But that was okay with her, as she didn't really like the sports, and she would rather be in the school house drawing or coloring. In the winter time, they would go over a little hill to a pond and slide around on the ice, which they called skating.

One time, during the war years, an 8th grader, Bobbie Leach, brought his dad's team and wagon to school, and they went around to all of the farms collecting scrap metal for the war effort.

A sad time came when on her mother's birthday, December 7, the neighbors came to their house for a birthday party. The Beans' radio was not working, so they had not heard the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Chester and Florence's last letter from their son, Lloyd, who was in the Navy, came from Hawaii. It was not until March that they received word that Lloyd was missing in action. They received a letter from a lieutenant that Lloyd had been killed and was buried at sea.

In 1947, another son was added to the family, when their grandson, Ronnie, who they

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Determine the Sex First

A lady named Mary Long gave the Bean kids a kitten, so of course they named it Mary. When Mary visited one time, she said it was the only time she had a tom cat named after her. They also had a dog named Oscar, which had a litter of pups.

Was it Love at First Sight?

And then came the time when Betty had to prepare for high school. All eighth grade students who attended country schools had to go to town to take and pass "eighth grade exams" in order to be promoted. The exams were given at the high school, and shy Betty was guided by her older sister, Margie. They were standing at the door to the high school when she saw Carolyn Cole being brought to the school by her brother, Doug, and Betty thought to herself, "How can such a cute girl have such a homely brother?" Famous last words, eh?

School's Long-Time Secretary Retires This Month



The smiling face and great work ethic of Penny Allen will be missed at Arnold Public Schools, as she leaves the desk she has manned for over 30 years to spend more time with family. (Kendra Veirs photo)

In just a few days, one of Arnold Public School's vital worker bees will pack up her stuff and leave a desk that she's been at for more than three decades.

"I will miss the kids a lot and the camaraderie of the staff," said Penny Allen, who has served as the school's secretary the past 33 years.

Penny first started working at the school in the fall of 1977, and stayed until May of 1980. She did the hot lunch program, worked for then guidance counselor Richard Bassett, answered

the phone, did general office data and was Pep Club shack sponsor.

"After I started the school year, our daughter, Mindy, was born in November of 1977. Justin was born in August of 1980, which meant I basically would be paying all of my wages for babysitting, and with two little ones, I needed to be home. Candi was born in April of 1983, and I didn't start work at the school again until August of 1986 and have been there ever since," said Penny.

Her list of duties is long. She

has served as the District Administrator in charge of all student records, the grade programs, the Nebraska Student, Staff, Recording System (NSSRS) Data Steward, Data Steward for Blackboard Connect (a call system informing patrons of school updates), Data Steward for NSAA, District Administrator for the school Food Program, and handles the details for scholarships, handbooks, attendance reports, and whatever else might be found on her desk.

Outside of the office, Penny

has been Prom sponsor for a period of time, started driving a bus route in 1993, and drove for activity trips while her kids were in activities.

"I will miss the kids and the beautiful sunrises," she said of her years driving the route.

Penny said technology has changed tremendously since those first years. She mainly used a typewriter for all of the reports required when she started. She then moved to an Applelle and now exclusively uses a MacBook Pro that has both the Macintosh and DOS side of the computer to accommodate all reports required. When she started with the lunch program, punch tickets were used. Now the program is computerized and webb based so both the grade program and lunch program correlate. All students have a local ID that Penny enters into the system each time they make a purchase. Parents are able to log on to their accounts and can see their balances and their student's grades.

The student population has also changed dramatically, going from around 400 students to fluctuating at around 150 with families moving in and out. Another drastic change has been government involvement.

"The detailed reports that include student grades, Special Education, Title I, School Enrollment, Program Facts (Career Education), Post School Survey, Student Attendance Summary, Assessment Fact, Staff, October Student Snapshot and Year-end Snapshot, need to be entered whenever there is a change in that specific area such as a new student enters, or a student exits our school system," she said.

Government regulations on

the Hot Lunch program have become more intense, along with audits, not only by the State but by the Federal government. Penny said this year, Arnold School was chosen to be audited with more scrutiny and detailed data.

"It is a learning curve for all, and all data changes with each big government change," she said.

Another change has been PowerSchool, a webb based computer grade program. The program is very detailed, and allows parents to be able to see their student's progress in each class they take. They can see their assignments, what is due, what is late, what hasn't been turned in, their attendance, grades and comments a teacher may have made. PowerSchool gives each student an ID number that remains with them as long as they are in a Nebraska school. Social Security numbers are no longer used in the school system for security reasons. All entries allow the PowerSchool program and the Nebraska Department of Education's portal's to correlate together for all of the reports required.

PowerSchool is a massive program that also includes the student's immunization records. It is now being utilized even more, as the school has an administration that is using the scheduling tool.

"Mrs. Nansel and Mr. Morgan have taken on the quest to work side by side in utilizing this tool which will save not only the person in my position a tremendous amount of time, but it will also help keep the checks and balances for all students toward their graduating process. Much kudos to Mrs.

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