

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Profile: A Peaceable Town, Arnold

Note from APS English instructor Nicole Badgley: After finding an article about the small town of Stapleton that was published on January 2, 1971, in the New Yorker magazine, last year's sophomore class decided it would be fun to write about Arnold with that same perspective and simply modernize the information. The author was obviously from the city and was amazed by all the aspects of the small town he happened to visit. The sophomore class each took a section or two and mimicked the writing style of the original author, Richard E. Harrison.

Below are experts from their unedited story to share with Sentinel readers...

Arnold, where we have lived for 16 years, is a small town in the Sandhills country of central Nebraska. It was founded in 1883 by a pioneer settler named George Arnold, and currently has a population of 591. Arnold came into being on a section of land provided by a pioneer cattleman. Arnold grew slowly until the railroad arrived in 1912. The Sandhills are grassy dunes include great, oceanic waves of sand with a carpeting of the rich native grass. Briefly green in the short prairie spring, then brown and dry and blowing in the perpetual prairie wind, the Sandhills form the largest natural cattle range in the United States. They cover all or much of twenty Nebraska counties. One of these, Cherry County, is bigger than Connecticut. One of Arnold's nearest

neighbors is the village of Stapleton (pop. 267), 20 miles away to the west, in Logan County. The minuscule town of Gandy (pop. 32) is located between Arnold and Stapleton. North Platte (pop. 22,978), the metropolis of western Nebraska, is twenty-nine miles to the south. Dunning (pop. 86) is 39 miles to the North, while Broken Bow (pop. 3,466) is 35 miles to the west.

Between Arnold and its neighbors, there is nothing but a long, empty highway and the range. Sometimes in the distance, one can see a clump of trees, a windmill, and a ranch house. The population of Custer County is 10,460. Arnold is linked to its neighbors by two highways: Highway 40 (which runs north and south) and Nebraska Highway 92, running east and west. Both are single-lane, blacktop highways, and they intersect at a right-angle crossing in the middle of town. Highway 92 runs through the middle of Arnold and is one of its two main streets.

Arnold's second main street is Walnut Street which runs north and south. There is one stop light in the middle of town, at the intersection of Walnut and Highway 92. The stop light isn't really a stop light, it's a blinking yellow light hanging over the street. Walnut Street runs from as far north as the water tower and south all the way to the post office.

But Arnold's population has never been much larger than it is today. Once,



Now moving into their junior year, the Class of 2025 took a deep look into their hometown of Arnold last year, writing a profile of their hometown of Arnold. Pictured are (back) A.J. Starr, Jamie Tickle, Ivy Tullis, Ethan Furne, Riata Remund, Taylor Hanna-Miles, Danah Baldwin, Anna Tullis, Dolores Duponcheel; (front) Ella Cool and Re'alta Leach. Not pictured: Alexander Mills.

around 1995, its population climbed as high as 702. The village's population between the years of 1910-1920 grew from 231 to 933 before falling off again. Therefore the village is a little smaller than it was at the time of World War II. However, Arnold has the look of a town- an urban look. It is plotted in the urban gridiron patterns, and its limits are clearly defined. The back years of the outermost houses all end at a barbed-wire fence, and beyond the fence is a corn field or pasture. Arnold has several urban amenities. It has a municipal park with a tennis court and picnic ovens and picnic tables and benches.

The village has a city water and sewer system. Its telephone system is fully automatic and the lines are laid underground. Landline phones are slowly becoming obsolete in homes due to the

widespread use of cell phones. All of the streets are lit and paved, with sidewalks. The streets are named in a functional, urban fashion. The north-south streets- the streets that are perpendicular to Main street- are named for no specific reason other than to name the streets. The streets south of Highway 92 are numbered. Highway 92 is known formally as Main Street.

Arnold has a fire and rescue department with an ambulance that takes people to the nearest hospital in Broken Bow, Gothenburg or North Platte. There are ten EMTs members in the fire department, who are trained in first aid.

Near the fire department downtown, is The Arnold Pinnacle Bank on Walnut Street along with many other businesses. It is a tall, brick building with large windows and deco-

rated flower pots outside the front door. It sits at the end of the block and is connected to Reeds Grocery Store. The bank opened in 1938 and bank manager Aaron Coleman has worked there for years.

“The most rewarding part of working at Pinnacle Bank is that I get to be a part of people's goals, aspirations, and successes. On any given day I may help a young person with a loan to buy their first car. Or I may help someone buy or build a home to raise their family. I may help another person in agriculture buy a piece of land to expand their operation.”

There is a small plot of land between Reeds Grocery store and the Rialto theater. This piece of landscape is known as Koubek Garden, which is owned by Peter Koubek. It was once the site of Koubek Meat Locker and

is now adorned by shrubs and a small rock waterfall.

The Rialto theater started in 1924 but was closed for 18 years. Fortunately, Sue Beshaler rounded up a group of volunteers to bring the theater back to life. Along with the majority of other buildings on main street, the theater is a tall brick building with large windows and has advertisements for the upcoming movies. Once entering the theater, you will be greeted by smiling local volunteer faces and feel the Arnold hospitality from Mary Becker. Mary volunteers at the local theater and commits a lot of time to it as an unpaid manager.

“SERVICE is a family value. It was part of my life from an early age. I grew up with my parents as great role models. When I saw the movie the-

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Improvements Made Over the Summer

Some sprucing up was done over the summer months to Village property by employees and volunteers.

(Upper left) Superintendent Doug De Laune put a fresh coat of paint on the toddler horse swings at the city park, making them appear brand new. It was just one area that Village employees took a brush to at the park. The children's swing set and all of the poles around the park were painted bright yellow and blue, to compliment the newer play area. The park, with plenty of fun equipment and picnic areas, is regularly used by not only residents, but by a surprising number of travelers who are passing through and receives a lot of compliments.

(Lower left) Justin Strasburg and his son Parker led the way in renovating Old Mill Park's concession stand. The shack was badly in need of repair. Justin and Parker tore off the old siding and shingles, replaced the bottom plate and rotten wood, and framed in the doors. Village employees took it from there, putting on new shingles and siding, and installing the doors.

(Below) Katie Berglund, APS art teacher, was contracted to re-paint the mural located on the north side of the Arnold Economic Development office.



Pre-Festival Aardvark Hunt

Tiff Varney said last week that pre-festival aardvark hunting will begin on September 15. The prize for finding the aardvark has gone way up to \$150.00, thanks to additional sponsors Pinnacle Bank and First State Insurance. A reminder that the aardvark will only be hidden on public property.

The clue will be hidden in the September 14 issue of *The Sentinel*, and might be just as hard to find. Good luck to all hunters!