

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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## Algae-Killing Fountains Up and Running at ARA A.H.S. Student Heads Interact Project

ARNOLD – The Arnold Recreation Area’s new fountains are running, and it only took one 16-year-old Interact member 10 months of hard work to get it done.

“I am so incredibly proud of him, it was a lot of hard work and all I could do was encourage him,” said Heather Furne, Ethan’s mom.

Arnold High School junior, Ethan Furne envisioned this day almost a year ago with he joined the Central Nebraska Interact Club.

At the very first introductory meeting where it was announced that Interact will be a “service above self” club, Ethan knew what he wanted to do for one of our first projects.

“I want to get fountains for the Arnold Rec Area so we can start fishing out

there again. The algae is so thick it is really hard to fish,” he explained to the sponsor.

What Ethan might not have known is how much it would cost. He did his research and found out what he needed to get this project off the ground.

Ethan knew he had to talk to some adults, especially the village who owns the pond. However, he also talked to a local agronomist, a chemical engineer, and the Nebraska Game and Parks to ensure that any algaecide chemicals used would only kill the algae and would not kill the fish that are already there.

Then he began researching the types of fountains that would be beautiful as well as functional. The fountains would aerate the pond making it hard for the algae to grow.

Once he knew the types of fountains and chemicals needed, he knew how much money he needed to raise. He wrote several grants, and managed to get all four.

The Rotary was the first to invest \$500.00 in the project so the chemicals could be bought and put on while waiting for the grants to come through.

With a total budget of over \$18,000.00, Ethan knew he would need to apply for many grants due to the fact that the Interact Club is a service organization and did not have any money in its coffers to fund it. The grants included: The Mid Nebraska Community Foundation for \$1,750.00, the Arnold Community Foundation for \$6,000.00, the Custer County Foundation for \$5,000.00, Custer County Tourism

for \$5,000.00, the Village of Arnold who paid for the electrical hook ups and the electricity to keep them running, and there were several other local donations as well.

Doug DeLaune was instrumental in helping Ethan with assembling the fountains, getting them set out in the pond, and getting the electrical hookups installed. It couldn’t have been done without him.

“Teenagers, as well as adults, need to realize that teens can have a powerful voice. They can be empowered to do great things if they just talk to the right people. Having a network of people who can direct them leads to successes just like this one,” said Nicole Badgley, Interact sponsor.

*The fountains, which are on timers, work by pushing air bubbles through the water, increasing oxygen levels and creating movement that helps keep water from stagnating. By doing this, oxygen-rich surface water is circulated throughout the pond, which helps to improve water quality and promote a healthy aquatic ecosystem. Oxygenation of the lake will build up over a period of time.*



September 16th was a happy day for A.H.S. Junior Ethan Furne, when he flipped the switch to turn on three aerating fountains at the Arnold Recreation Area lake. Village Superintendent Doug DeLaune was in charge of installing the fountains after Ethan did the research and raised the funds. - Debbie Connelly photo

## History Comes Alive for Descendant of T.L. Jones

September 16th was a very emotional day for Vicki Selia. With her husband Rob, she walked through the door of her great-grandfather, T.L. Jones’ building for the first time in her life. The 1912 building, now occupied by BrewBakers Coffee House & Gifts, was completely renovated starting in 2016 by owner Jodi Carlson and husband Keith. The Carlsons, who waited until after the day’s closing, gave the Idaho couple a warm welcome.

“I have grown up seeing all of these pictures from my great-grandfather’s store. I could not get over how beautiful the tiles are and how everything was so intact the way I remember those photos. Jodi and Keith really stayed true to the building’s architecture,” said Vicki.

During their meeting, Vicki gifted the couple an antique (1898) Sunday dish with a silver spoon from the T.L. Jones Mercantile store, as well as a banana split bowl that T.L. served ice cream delights in. She also shared with Jodi a photo of T.L. Jones that had been handed down to her.

“I have a few items from his store, as well,” said Vicki, “including a crockery dressing bowl with his advertisement on it and a bean pot with his store’s stamp.”

The couple, who live in Athol, which is 25 minutes north of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, stayed in Arnold for five days and they stayed busy the whole time. They stayed at the Arnold Recreation Area just outside of town, saw BrewBakers and went to the Arnold Eco-

nomie Development office where they met up with Cheryl Carson. From there, Cheryl took them to see Devil’s Den and the Dragon’s Back. They worshipped on Sunday at the United Methodist Church, went to Reed’s grocery store, the Arnold Cemetery, the local vet clinic, saw the original home of T.L. Jones and Della Jones, as well as the Claudson’s original home which is Vicki’s paternal great-grandfather’s place.

They also visited Arnold High School, where her grandmother, Catherine Jones, and grandfather, Laverne Claudson, went to school.

“T.L. Jones was superintendent of schools. What that means was that he signed diplomas,” said Vicki. “My grandmother would tell me that her dad (T.L.) would say that if

**“I have grown up seeing all of these pictures from my great-grandfather’s store.”**

- Vicki Selia, after walking into the original building of T.L. Jones’ Mercantile store in Arnold.

Laverne Claudson didn’t treat his daughter right, he might not sign his high school diploma! My grandma told me her dad was quite the kiddier!”

After spending a few days in the present-day town of Arnold, Vicki said it was so easy to see why her great-grandfather loved Arnold so much.

“The people here were



Vicki Selia of Idaho presented BrewBakers building owner Jodi Carlson antique items from her great-grandfather, T.L. Jones’ Mercantile store while she was in Arnold. A photo of the original T.L. Jones store front is hanging on the wall above the two women. - Debbie Connelly photo

just incredibly kind, warm, and genuine. And after meeting all of these people, it was so easy to see why they planted deep, deep roots in Arnold,” she said.

## Arnold Resident’s Odometer Clicks to 100 Residents, Corvettes turn out to celebrate Bobbie Smith’s milestone.

By Janet Larreau

On September 21st, Bobbie Smith walked into his favorite Chinese restaurant, the Mongolian Grill, with his son, Robbi and daughter-in-law Shelley. Wearing a black and white cap that read, “100 Never Looked So Good,” the trio sat down for a quiet birthday celebration before gearing up for the big celebration set for the coming Sunday, where everyone – and we mean everyone - was invited.

Bobbie was a passenger on this trip, but last fall, it was a whole other story. Shelley recalled, “Before he got sick last November, Bobbie would occasionally sneak away from the farm and make a road trip to North Platte. His first and only stop was the Mongolian Grill for an early (10:45-11:00) lunch. We had visited with him about our need to know his whereabouts, as well as suggesting that he not drive farther than town.



Bobbie Smith celebrated his 100th birthday on Sunday with a Corvette ride in Gothenburg. Twenty-plus Corvettes formed a parade behind him and his driver, son Robbi. - Courtesy photo

Normally, when Bobbie would drive to North Platte, we would receive a call or two from friends or family regarding his location and/or driving skills. Most times after he returned, we would ask him where he had been and he

would just smile and say, “I went to lunch!”

This fun, crafty guy has lived a full life. Born to Mynor and Cecil (Nansel) Smith on the family farm in 1923, Bobbie is well known for defying his age. He’s been a farmer, hus-

band, father, grandfather, supportive community member, friend, and believe it or not, a Corvette owner (three times over) and a race car driver. He lived his life just west of Arnold and was involved in the family farm into

his 90s. At the age of 99, he settled into Stone Hearth Estates assisted living in Gothenburg where he would celebrate the centenarian milestone that only under 1 percent of the U.S. population reaches – and the largest percentage of those are women, by far.

Thursday’s quiet celebration gave Shelley and Robbi a chance to ask Bobbie some interesting ques-

tions that come to mind when you’re talking to a 100-year-old... Like, what is your earliest memory? For Bobbie it’s riding his Shetland pony to school. And, if you hadn’t been a farmer, what would you have been instead? Well, an outlaw!

Bobbie’s favorite farming memory is combining from Texas to North

See Clicks to 100  
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### American Life in 1923

- The Model T was still one of the most popular cars in 1923
- The film industry boomed, and both Warner Bros. and Disney were founded.
- Radio was just starting to become king in 1923.
- Clarence Birdseye invented frozen food in 1923, forever changing the way Americans eat.
- The first issue of TIME Magazine was printed.
- In 1923, more Americans lived in cities than villages or farms for the first time in the country’s history (51%). Today, that number is 83%.
- Around 1923, homes started to become more mechanized, with devices like refrigerators taking the place of ice boxes.
- Men had a life expectancy of 56.1 years, and women lived an average of 58.5 years