

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Florida Resident Donates Historical Items to Future Museum

By Janet Larreau

The Arnold Area Historical Society has received items for the future museum from Charleen Romine, granddaughter of Rufus and Nellie (Layton) Twist.

From her home in Florida, Romine communicated with AAHS board member David Leach and traveled through Arnold to make the donation.

In her first communication with Leach in January of 2025, she wrote, “About 40 years ago, my grandmother gave me a couple of “signature” books. Honestly, at that time they didn’t mean much to me, and I tucked them away. I came across them last month and realized they were my grandfather’s mother’s books when she was a little girl. They have a few well wishes from her friends

and family, some last names that I recognized. My mom, Bonnie (Twist) Romine, and we three daughters lived in Arnold when my dad, Duane, was in Vietnam.”

Romine went on to say that the books, based on a few of the dates, are from 1891. She was also willing to donate a few pictures of her grandfather, Rufus Twist, with his high school basketball team, and with his brother, Zoid, from 1919. The largest donation she offered was a portrait of her grandmother, Nellie, in the original frame and rounded glass. When Romine’s dad got involved, they promised more, including old photos and scrapbooks, 1954-58 A.H.S. yearbooks, and a copy of “One Hundred Years on the South Loup” by Norene Hall Mills.

As far as the portrait of her grandmother, Romine

said, “Yes, it’s sentimental to me, but I’d rather the museum have it, than it be tossed when I pass.”

On May 19, Romine arrived in Arnold to meet with Leach and share the portrait of her grandmother.

Among the items sent was the history of how Nellie’s family came to the area in 1913 by train, first living in a soddy, and Nellie’s handwritten notes about her childhood memory of a cold day in November, 1919, when they moved from 13 miles south of Arnold to 7 miles northwest of Arnold to a place her dad bought in Mills Valley. There, she grew up, graduating from A.H.S. in 1931.

Leach said that Rufus and Nellie were household names in his home in the 50s and 60s when he was growing up, and the items are wonderful donations for the museum.



Charleen Romine holds the original framed photo of her grandmother, Nellie (Layton) Twist, that she donated to the Arnold Area Historical Society this year. The Florida resident and her father, Duane, who are former Arnold residents, donated several historical items belonging to Rufus and Nellie Twist. - Courtesy photo

Top 16 Announced for ‘Coolest Things Made in Nebraska’ Competition

LINCOLN, Nebraska — August 27, 2025 — The fourth annual Coolest Thing Made in Nebraska competition has officially unveiled its Top 16 products. From farm equipment to iconic foods, Nebraskans now have the chance to decide which product will claim the 2025 title.

Voting is open for the first round of the bracket-style competition and will continue through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 7. Advanced rounds

will follow throughout September. Manufacturers, students and all Nebraskans are invited to cast their votes for their favorite product each week at www.nemanufacturingalliance.com.

The competition, hosted by the NE Chamber and NE Manufacturing Alliance, and presented by Pinnacle Bank, celebrates Nebraska’s dynamic manufacturing industry, home to more than 100,000 Nebraskans working in manufacturing every day.

Top 16 Finalists:

- Allmand Light Towers – Allmand, Holdrege
- Double Wide Badass Workbench – Badass Workbench, Kearney
- World’s Largest Folding Corn Head – Bish Enterprises, Giltner
- Basketball Hoops – Bison Inc., Lincoln
- High School Elite Aluminum Hurdle – Blazer Athletic Equipment, Columbus
- Wool Yarn – Brown Sheep Company, Scottsbluff

- AF Series Combine Harvester – CASE IH, Grand Island
- Hideaway Copper Mugs – Handlebend, O’Neill
- A-Tip Match Bullets – Hornady Manufacturing, Grand Island
- Teryx4 H2 / Teryx5 H2 – Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., Lincoln
- Tapered Tube Transmission Line Poles – Klute Inc., York
- Custom Artificial Limbs – Limb Lab, Lincoln

See MADE IN NEBRASKA, page 6.

Rotary Plans Events for Fall Festival

School Spirit is the theme of this year’s Arnold Fall Festival. The event is set for Saturday, September 20, and includes a parade, games, competitions, and a barbecue.

Arnold Rotary is planning two events to coincide with the festival. The School Spirit Fun Run/Walk, will be held at the Arnold Recreation Area, with check-in from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Pre-registration forms are available at First State Insurance and Reed’s Food

Center. The fee is \$35.00 per person, with a t-shirt, or \$25.00 per person without. To receive a t-shirt, participants must pre-register by September 6. Rotary will also be hosting a pancake feed from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., at the recreation area. All of the runners and walkers, and the public, can go through the line for a free-will donation.

The festival’s full schedule will appear in next week’s issue.



Clean-Up Time on Woodland Drive

Casey Cozad (left), Josiah (right) and other helpers have been taking on a big challenge on Woodland Drive, cleaning up four lots of abandoned vehicles, debris, and old trees. Casey said after he purchased the four lots a couple of years ago, he put goats on them. He had plans to keep going, but Dave Hildebrandt and his excavator really deserve the credit for the clean-up. “Dave really pushed me to go in and do it,” said Casey. “I’ve been teaching some of the guys how to cut down trees, and that’s been quite the experience. We’ve gone through five chainsaws so far.”

The large cottonwoods on the property are well over 100 years old; two will be kept to keep a canopy. “It is, after all, ‘Woodland Drive,’” said Casey, who added that he has had a couple of suggestions of how to develop the lots moving forward.

Inset: Casey and Josiah measure the trunk circumference of one of the cottonwoods that will not be cut down. It measures 21 ft. 9 in. (Debbie Connelly photos)