

Organization Histories

A & E Girls 4-H Club



1956: Back : Harriet Gosch, Judy Hilkemann, Clarette Kruger. Front: Nancy Van Slyke, Judy Huwaldt.

In 1956, Mrs. Leonard (Bess) Robinson thought that there should be a girl's 4-H Club in the neighborhood, so she worked at getting one started. She contacted all the neighborhood girls and finally found five who became the charter members of the new A & E Girls 4-H Club. They were: Clarette Kruger, Harriet Gosch, Judy Huwaldt, Judy Hilkemann and Nancy Van Slyke. Of course Mrs. Robinson became the first leader, but all mothers were



1985: Back: Shelly Wattier, Julie Carstens, Kerry Robinson, Tina Leiting. Front: Heather and Regina Reineke, Jill Sporleder, Jamie Redinbaugh

expected to help lead projects and assist wherever they could.

In 1956, projects were mainly cooking and sewing. Today there are over a hundred different projects to choose from in the 4-H program. Projects have changed over the years (as have the times) but "learning by doing" is still the goal.

The "girls" always took an active part in 4-H activities. They put up window displays and fair booths almost every year. The "girls" took part in "Share the Fun" and song contests; wrote speeches, gave demonstrations; exhibited their projects at fairs and had lots of parties. Of course it was not all fun! There was a lot of work in 4-H. The girls 55 years ago thought so too. Not every exhibit received a purple ribbon but the girls always tried to remember the 4-H motto: "To Make The Best Better".



**Back: Carmen Kollars, Angela Starkel, Wendi Bierschenk
Front: Anthony Starkel Paul Kollars Steven Kollars,**

Mrs. Robinson served as leader from 1956-1969, at which time she was honored for completing 25 years as leader of 4-H Clubs. And through the many, many years, she could always be found standing in the sidelines or sitting in the back row encouraging every girl to do their best until her health began to fail.

Besides 4-H activities, the A & E Girls always took an active part in community projects. You would often find them doing such things as: entertaining at the Colonial Manor, painting park benches or cleaning community buildings.

The A & E Girls celebrated their 25th Anniversary on October 11, 1981, with an open house held at the Gene Goetsch home. Forty guests registered at the guest book and everyone reminisced about the good old days!

There are five former members that represent second generation A & E Girls. They are: Ann (Sausser) Wolf and her mother Nancy (Van Slyke) Sausser; Megan (Patent) Nygren and Keisha Patent and their mother Carmen (Brodersen) Patent; Wendi (Bierschenk) Bennett and her mother Jean (Huwaldt) Bierschenk and Shelly (Wattier) Backer and her mother Susan (Huwaldt) Wattier.

In 1991, because of discrimination rulings, the A & E Girls 4-H Club changed their name to A & E 4-H Club. In 1993, they had the first boys enroll in the club. They were: Anthony Starkel, Paul Kollars and Steve Kollars.

In the last 55 years, the A & E (Girls) members have used their 4-H experiences to become: nurses, teachers, administrative assistants, sales women, managers, business executives, homemakers, attorneys, and other career professionals.

The A & E (Girls) 4-H Club disbanded in 2002 with Crystal Starkel being the last member of the club. The last organizational leader was Patty Starkel. Former members of the A & E (Girls) 4-H Club are proud of their achievements over the past 55 years and know they have lived the 4-H motto "To Make The Best Better".

Allen-Eastern Livestock 4-H Club

The Allen-Eastern Livestock Club of Pierce County was organized by Henry Weyhrich of Randolph, Nebraska, in 1940. Mr. Weyhrich served as leader with W.C. West as assistant leader.

The name of the club originated from the Allen and Eastern precincts of Pierce County where the club members lived. Today the club's members no longer live in just the Allen and Eastern precincts of Pierce County. The club has branched out to include any boy or girl in the Randolph vicinity who wishes to be a member.



About 1938 at Ak-Sar-Ben: Marvin Weyhrich, Harold Weyhrich, Willis Eberhardt, Keith Huwaldt, Harold Hilkemann, Alvin Weyhrich and LeRoy Eberhardt

The history of the Allen-Eastern Livestock Club is laden with families whose members have belonged to the club throughout multiple generations. Currently there are some fourth generation members belonging to the club. Members in their second and third generations are a major part of the club's history.

The club would not function without the parental volunteer leaders who assist in the running of the meetings and organization of the youth. In 1986 thirty-four leaders or assistants had served throughout the years. This number has grown exponentially in the last 25 years with parents rotating annually or biannually to serve as leaders to the club.

Throughout the years the club has served well over 500 members many of whom have belonged to the club each year that they were eligible.



About 1963: Back: Gene Baird, Larry Bermel, Micky Haselhorst, Radny Boughn, Larry Haselhorst, Lynn Dowling, Don Bermel. Middle: Linda Bermel, Kathy Dowling, Cheryl Gerkins, Sharon Dowling. Front: Carol Dowling, Susan Meyer, Lori Bermel, Don Huwaldt, Greg Haselhorst, Mark Meyer, Roy Gerkins.

The club has always been an active one. They have shown their livestock at the Randolph Community Fair, the Pierce County Fair, the Norfolk Livestock Exposition, the State Fair, and the Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock show. Many top livestock showmen and showwomen have graduated from the club. Untrue to its name the Allen-Eastern Livestock club members also participate in a variety of projects for the Pierce County Fair and Randolph Community Fair ranging from baking to sewing, woodworking to robotics and much, much more.

Club members take part in speech competition, demonstrations and community service. In 1968 they were named Nebraska's Champion Beef Club. The Ak-Sar-Ben Good Neighbor Award was awarded to the club in 1971

Community service projects have included entertaining Senior Citizens, donating cash to worthwhile causes, collecting food for the local food pantry, working to help better the Pierce County 4-H buildings and grounds, and working to clean up a portion of Highway 20 ditches as well as the Randolph City Park through years of trash pick-up service.

In 1990, the club worked with other area organizations to purchase and donate a clock that was placed on Main Street in Randolph on the front of the VFW building downtown. They also donated funds towards the restoration and preservation of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island in 1986.

The club observed its Silver Anniversary in 1965 at the Randolph Park. One hundred twenty people attended. They held another reunion at the Don Bermel home in 1981. July 14, 1990 the club celebrated their golden

anniversary with one hundred twenty five guests attending their pot-luck celebration again held at the Randolph Park.

2010 marks the seventieth year of the existence of the Allen-Eastern Livestock 4-H Club. The club credits its success and longevity to interested parents and leaders. The club is looking forward to many more years of serving the youth of its community.

Alvin Kessler V.F.W. Post 5545

In the fall of 1945, upon the capitulation of Japan, the Veterans began returning home. Naturally Randolph veterans were among them. Upon their return their thoughts were aimed at re-establishing their civilian lives. They also began thinking about joining veteran organizations, thus affording them the opportunity to associate with fellow veterans, as well as to look after veteran's needs and rights and also to serve their community in whatever manner possible.



Alvin Kessler VFW Post 5545 during Randolph parade.

A number of Randolph veterans began thinking about forming an organization honoring veterans of Foreign Service. In this manner, the formation of Alvin Kessler



Joseph and Mary Kessler

Post 5545 was instituted. It was named for the first foreign service casualty from Randolph in World War II.

He was the son of Joseph and Mary Kessler, long time residents of the

Randolph community.

V.F.W. Post 5545 was formed February 14, 1946. The following were charter members. They are listed in the order in which they signed to become members: Luther E. Barnes, Myrl L. Barnes, Kenneth Titman, Alfred Broer, Elmer A. Leiting, Michael Finchak, Robert H. Lewis, Kenneth Q. Rosenbach, Frank V. Walz, Boyd W. Cunningham, Wilbur G. Anderson, Raymond A. Robbins, Dwight M.

Roberts, Charles H. Peterson, Kenneth M. Anderson, Dale W. McCune, Laurence C. Meier, Harry J. Meier, Dale F. Blotz, Raymond W. Beltz, Kersten K. Nielsen, Eddie E. Broer, Howard L. Gries, Wayne L. Bolander, Clarence J. Wurdinger, Kenneth I. Conyers, Leo J. O'Brien, Gordon L. Chapman, Calvin L. Havorka, Gaylord J. Gries, Melvin A. Wier, Melvin D. Boughn, Belmar E. Jensen, Irvie L. Nolte, Darrell W. Boughn, Gerald J. Hansen, Bert F. Gleason, Marvin C. West, Melvin D. Jenkins, George D. Reed, Clarence H. Kalvelage, James H. Baker and Vincent C. Havorka.

In August of 1946, they received the official seal and ceremonial rifles. In October, post colors were received.

On November 11, 1946, the V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary was formed and instituted. Now the organization was complete and ready to go forward.

The road ahead wasn't always going to be smooth. They were undaunted and became one of the largest fraternal organizations in Randolph.

For a time they met in the Legion Hall. In 1951, they began meeting in the Cornhusker Café.

That year they began serving refreshments in the baseball park stand for the baseball games.



Lyle Eberhardt standing by his truck in Korea



Fred Thies (third front right) in army chow line during WW I

In 1953, they held their first District 3 Convention. They also purchased the building known as the A. J. Abts Harness and Shoe Store at 116 W Broadway Street and began the remodeling process.

In 1959, the post nearly went on the rocks, but with reorganization and diligent work it came back stronger than ever.

In the fall of 1965, they held a Labor Day Dance; had a mortgage burning ceremony; and built a new and larger stand for the baseball park. Two life memberships to the post were acquired, Willis McDonald being #1 and Russell Van Slyke #2.

In 1968, they purchased a portable P. A. System which has been used in many community functions and is used every Memorial Day for reading the list of the war dead at each of the local cemeteries.

Many different members of the post and auxiliary members have held offices at the district and department level. Hardly a year has passed, since their organization, that at least one local member has not held an office at either the district or department level.

V.F.W. Post 5545 and the Auxiliary have sponsored many community projects such as kiddie shows, Easter egg hunts, light a bike and bike safety programs. They have furnished colors and color guards as well as marching units for various local parades and affairs for other towns. They sponsor and participate in Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances. They have sponsored the Voice of Democracy program for many years and held many district conventions. They have furnished colors, color guard and firing squad for military funerals.

Through the post service office, they have helped many needy veterans and families. The service office aided in getting pensions and getting increases in pensions for many veterans as well as pensions for widows and an increase in widows' pensions. In some cases they have also aided veterans in getting into veteran's hospitals and vet's homes.

In 1972, they obtained 25 uniforms for the color bearers, color guards and firing squad.

In August 1973, they purchased Dr. Peter's old office building at 104 East Broadway and began remodeling it into a new post home. The post held the distinction of

having the only post home in the State of Nebraska with a circular staircase which was built by the local blacksmith, Louie Broer, who furnished the labor and the V.F.W. Post furnished the material.

Upon completion of the remodeling an open house was held on June 9, 1974.

Upon obtaining 26 life members the post was eligible to be chartered as a perpetual post. This was issued February 2, 1978. Perpetual post charter #3465 was issued, listing the charter members in the order in which they became life members as follows: Willis C. McDonald, Russell Van Slyke, John A. Hill, Laverne E. Jones, Hans H. Burmester, Merle Rohde, Melvin Reineke, Earl Hansen, Dean McGrew, Kenneth Rolfes, Donald Langferman, Marvin W. Weyhrich, Warren E. Kint, Keith Huwaldt, Donald Winkelbauer, Darrell J. "Jim" Riedel, Marlin Van Slyke, Richard W. Clarksean, Roger N. Borst, Donald Dendinger, Robert Winkelbauer, Steve Anton, Francis Wattier, Lavern Scott, Robert McDonald and Don Clark. Many others have become life members since the chartering.

On December 31, 1978 the mortgage was paid off with a big mortgage burning ceremony being held in 1979.

The old building site on West Broadway Street was sold to Ray Patent who erected an electrical shop in its place.

On April 25, 2001 the First State Bank needed additional space for expansion. The VFW Post sold the their building to the First State Bank with a stipulation in the contract that the VFW Post can use the basement for meetings and storage of the guns, flags, etc. as long as the VFW Post exists.

The V.F.W. Post 5545 still serves the community by furnishing wheel chairs, crutches, walkers, color guards, firing squads and many other courtesies.

Submitted by Willis C. McDonald for 1986 Centennial and updated by Lavern Scott

Randolph Veterans

The following is a list of Veterans and their spouses which are buried at the Randolph Public Cemetery, St. Frances Cemetery and the Rose Hill Cemetery as listed in the "official" Alvin Kessler Post 5545 record.

Civil War Veterans

B. J. Townsend
Lucy Townsend
Benning Wentworth
Caterine Wentworth
W. G. McColm
J. W. Bicknell
Wilda Bicknell
James A. Casteel
Frances Casteel
O. K. Booth
Nancy E. Booth
William M. Totten
Mary E. Totten
D. T. Anderson
Mrs. D. T. Anderson

J. L. Nance
Lucy Nance
J. H. Collier
Mary Ann Collier
John H. Groat
Elizabeth Groat
James A. Level
Mary A. Level
George Andrew
Lillie Andrew
Thomas G. Wright
A. D. Griffith
Sena Griffith
W. C. Gorton
Mrs. W. C. Gorton
James J. Moore
Sarah E. Moore

Chas. F. Clark
Sarah E. Clark
N. H. Dowling
E. W. Leicy
Mary E. Leicy
T. J. Howarth
Nancy J. Howarth
Thomas Barnes
Matilda Barnes
Fred Weber
Sarah Weber
John McLain
Sarah McLain
Herman Heiderman
Kate Heiderman
Joseph Jorgensmeier
Magdaline Jorgensmeier

World War I Veterans

Dee Wilson
Alfred Nelson
Effiia Nelson
Mary Nelson
Dr. B. F. Gleason
Adeline Gleason
Mary Gleason
George Buol
Herbert Hoepner
Gilbert Adams
Thomas Swanson
Paul A. Buol
George Strathman
Henry Heiderman
James D. Frost

Thomas Farron
 Vern O. Sellon
 Alice Sellon
 Vena Sellon
 Gilbert Filben
 Glifford L. Stober
 Kenneth Boughn
 S. S. Gibson
 Ruth Gibson
 Fred Brindley
 Rose Brindley
 Ed Gardner
 Eva Gardner
 Gene Stewart
 Elizabeth Stewart
 Ed Reisen
 Roy Raber
 Nellie Raber
 Wm. Mattingly
 Jess Anderson
 E. W. "Mike" Anderson
 Frances C. Anderson
 V. Milo Brown
 Gladys Brown
 A. R. "Ted" Weber
 Clara L. Weber
 Harry F. Sellon
 Gertrude Sellon
 Albert Jossie
 Chester L. Mayden
 Louis Snook
 Frank Herman
 Clark Blizzard
 Elizabeth Blizzard
 Rudolph Hickey
 Mary Adams Hickey
 Louis Kruse
 Hilda Kruse
 Otto A. Opkis
 Katherine (Katie)) Opkis
 Arthur A. Reiland
 Elsie Reiland
 Albert Larson
 Alice Larson
 Myron Bloomer
 Helen Bloomer
 Chas. Nitz
 Ethal Nitz
 Evan Jones
 Ruth Jones
 B. A. Miller
 Lyle "Turk" Reed
 John D. Sendell
 Alta Sendell
 John Koob
 Addie Koob
 Lars Olson
 Esther Olson
 J. W. Middleton
 Rose Middleton
 Chester Wilson
 Ann Wilson
 Chas. Pittit
 Minna Pittit
 Aura Craig
 Dorothy Craig
 Omar O. Smith
 C. W. Hughes
 Fern Hughes

Ruth Hughes
 Frank E. Mitchell
 Joe Sellon
 Eleanor Sellon
 F. S. Benson
 Florence Benson
 Dr. G. E. Peters
 Mabel Peters
 Paula Peters
 Theodore "Ted" Rosein
 A. E. LeClair
 Anna M. LeClair
 Mike Finn
 Lena Finn
 Frank Leiting
 Susie Leiting
 R. J. "Dick" Kreiger
 Clara Kreiger
 John Schrad
 Lenis "Buck" Kenny
 Esther Kenny
 Joseph Nordhues
 Bertha Nordhues
 Joseph Leiting
 Mary Leiting
 Nickolas Greiner
 Marie E. Greiner
 Frank V. Walz
 Dr. L. T. Peebles
 Millie Peebles
 John M. "Matt" Spader
 Martha Spader
 Benjamin Hassman
 V. C. "Bake" Havorka
 Amanda Havorka
 Henry "Hank" Korth
 Catherine Korth
 Louis Gubbels
 Bessie Gubbels
 Joseph Miller
 Robert "Bob" Miller
 Marie Miller
 Joseph Gubbels
 Clara Gubbels
 Fred Thies
 Irene Thies
 Ed Weyhrich
 Anna Weyhrich

World War II Veterans

Earl Holmes
 Clayton J. Gries
 Howard Claussen
 Eldon A. Fleming
 Clifford Tadge
 Alvie E. Lewis
 Bruce V. Reed
 Harold Bauer
 Vincent E. Anderson
 Harreit Anderson
 Walter Howard
 Lillian Howard
 Reuben Swanson
 Reuben Mueller
 Chas. A. "Chick" Nies
 Eva K. Nies
 Eldred Cleveland
 Donald E. Manzer
 Francis Nelson

Cecil "Cec" Jacobson
 Elmer Swanson
 Harold Rohde
 Raymond W. Beltz
 Marianne Beltz
 Richard Broer
 George Hayward
 Walt Anderson
 James Tietgen
 Donald Galvin
 Lavern Galvin
 Harold A. Peters
 Robert I. Olson
 Harold Peper
 Melvin Graham
 Jerald E. Weber
 John D. Sellon
 M. Dale Boughn
 Roy W. Gibson
 Grace Gibson
 Elmer Rolfs
 George (Dean) Reed
 Frank R. White
 Arlene White
 Jay Muhn
 Chas. Les Lewis
 Alfred Krueger
 Clyde Andrew
 Bertha Andrew
 Laverne E. "Barney" Jones
 Leonina (Nina) Jones
 Marvin Huwaldt
 Naola Huwaldt
 Albert T. "Bert" Reed
 Gene Baird
 Lois Baird
 LeRoy Horstman
 Jack "Snappy" Reed
 Kenneth Rath
 Paul L. Young
 Virginia Young
 Alfred "Al" Baden
 Clarence "Skinny"
 Remington
 Dwayne Van Auken
 Auther Stewart
 John Atwood
 Lloyd Sporleder
 Velma Dowling
 Ernie Voss
 Gwen Voss
 Arthur Backer
 Willis McDonald
 Mildred McDonald
 Richard Remington
 Zachariah Boughn
 Gerald G Brindley
 Faye L. Roberts
 Norton H. Dowling
 Frederick D. Rokahr
 Marvin R. Weber
 Glen A. Dowling
 Cliff Galvin
 Alvin Kessler
 Thomas J. Abts
 John D. Kint
 Wm. P. Dwyer
 Larry Dendinger
 Clarence N. Hosch

James E. Bermel
 Joseph Schmidt
 Violet Schmidt
 Paul Miller
 John Kenny
 Eugene Kenny
 Wm. Willeke
 Wayne E. Ewing
 Harry Meier
 Melvin Thelen
 Alma Glasser
 Ervin Meier
 Fred Spader
 Robert Finn
 Emmett Moes
 Elmer A. Leiting
 Dorothy Leiting
 Merlin Dominisse
 Dr. Leland J. "Pee" Peebles
 Donald Maillard
 Matt Kuhl
 Ed Wurdinger
 Leo O'Brian
 Helen O'Brian
 Laverne Dennis
 Marvin Leiting
 Victor L. Caster
 Marvin Haselhorst
 Donald Kuhl
 Gene Becker
 Gordon Kohnen
 John W. Moes
 Albert J. "Al" Lenhoff
 Elvira Lenhoff
 Wendell Eddie
 Marvene Eddie
 Donald Friedenbach
 Harold Lenhoff
 Fern Lenhoff
 Charles "Bus" Peterson
 Arthur Wurdinger
 Vernon Elton
 Mrs. Vernon Elton
 Vincent Hartz
 Vernon Viergutz
 Frances Viergutz
 Glen Nelson
 Marteen "Fritz" Nelson
 Richard "Dick" Nordhues
 Richard "Dick" Thies
 Theodore "Ted" Tunink
 Kenneth Rosenbach
 Michael Dankanyin
 Gayle Homer Roland
 Alfred L. "Al" Tarnish
 Francis "Frank" Leiting
 Leonard Heger
 Genevieve Durante
 Dr. Eugene J. Abts
 Dr. Henry J. Billerbeck
 Urban "Bud" Thelen
 Francis "Red" Kiser
 Bernice Kiser
 Arthur Backer
 Lowell Van Slyke
 Sylvester Winkelbauer
 Julius "Jude" Oberding
 Joy Olberding
 Clarence Borst

Robert Borst
Ervin Haselhorst
Norbert B. Olberding
Theodore N. Thieman
Vincent Schmit
Ray V. Gubbels
James "Pat" Kaiser
Alfred Griener
Gerald F. Bermel
Robert Greiner
Arthur Bilau
Harold Weyhrich
Ruth M. Weyhrich
Delbert Galvin
Bernice Galvin
Anton Weyhrich
Mildred Weyhrich
Donald Bermel
Darlene Bermel
Marlyn "Marly" Kruse
Rev. Walter Rossbach
Warren Janssen
LaVone Hansen
Eldred Pentico

Ella Pentico
Warren "Breezie" Kint
Marvin E. Weyhrich
Alvin (Curley) Weyhrich
Wayne Anderson

Korean Veterans

Ray M. Saunders
Gene Cunningham
Melvin Strathman
Marvin E. Kuhl
Donald G. Clark
Max W. Lanphear
Richard E. Wilkinson
Merle R. Rohde
John R. Akers
Floyd W. Wichman
Raymond A. Patent
Kenneth Kenny
Donald Bierschenk
James J. Sauser
Robert "Bob" Bierschenk
Donald Helms
Paul Thelen

Keith Yunker
Paul Tunink
Bob Wattier
Robert "Bob" Tunink
Lester "Les" Greiner
Boyd Gene Whalen
Paul Lenzen
Cecil Leiting
Floyd B. Moser
William P. O'Gara
Richard Daws
Timothy Nelson
James Heimes
Frank Thieman
Hans H. Burmester
JoAnne Burmester
Sherr Burmester
Leonard Wiesman
Donald Owens
Gerald Bargstadt

Viet Nam Veterans

Verlin "Woody" Lewis
Gayle Roland

Ronald Reimers
Ronald McDonald
Jack Gregory Reed
Stanley Gubbels
James Moser
Lynn Drey
Rick Johnson
John Leapley
Jim Brandl
Herman Nordhues Jr.
Dorothy Dunn
Harold "Harry" Wintz
Marvin Taylor
John (Terry) Hoelsing
Ronald L. Korth
Marven Jones
Larry Robinson
Darrell Weyhrich
Leland Kumm
Jimmy Lee
Darrell Broderson

Desert Storm Veterans

Dan McFadden



Glen Miller, Ray Stauber, Keith Huwaldt



Ron Korth Viet Nam Veteran



Dan McFadden Desert Storm Veteran

Alvin Kessler Post 5545 Auxiliary

The VFW Auxiliary was organized November 13, 1946, by Clara Andrews in the Pine Room at the Cornhusker Café. Phylis Titman was elected as the first president of the Auxiliary.

Community service has been a high priority of the Auxiliary. Throughout the years, the Auxiliary has sponsored a yearly party at the Veteran's Home and donated to many Veteran's projects as well as local ones. Donations are also made to the local food pantry. The Auxiliary has helped sponsor Girls Staters and also sponsored the Voice of Democracy contest each year. Yearly contributions are made to Operation uplink to assist in the purchase of calling cards and correspondence via the internet for our service personnel to maintain contact with their families, following the deployment of our troops overseas. Funding is also sent to Veterans National Home for Christmas projects for our veterans' children. Deceased members are remembered each



Back: Irene Rohde, Sharon Burmester, Mildred Roland, Cinda Jones, Janet Groen Front: Beulah Rokahr, Mildred Dun, Ruthie Kumm, Darlene McDonald, Gerladine Caster

Memorial Day with a marker and flag placed at their grave site at the three local cemeteries.

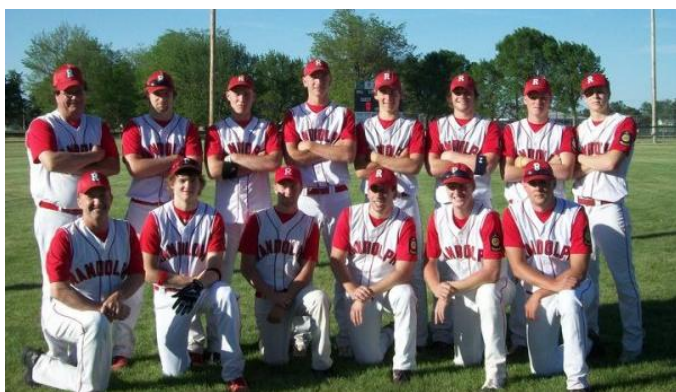
In order for the Auxiliary to finance their many projects, fund raising is an important task. This has been done

through bake sales, pillow cleaning and sponsoring a table at the local fair craft show sponsored by the Senior Citizen Center.

Today's membership numbers forty-eight. Beulah Rokahr is the current president; Cinda Jones serves as senior vice-president and musician; Janet Groen is junior vice-president and musician; Geraldine Caster is secretary; Darlene McDonald is treasurer; Mildred Roland is Chaplain; Mildred Dun is Patriotic Instructor; Irene Rohde is conductress and Sharon Burmester is guard. Trustees are: Ruthie Kumm, Helen Burgel and Pat VanSlyke. The Auxiliary meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Senior Citizen Center.

The Alvin Kessler Post #5545 Auxiliary strives to be a thriving organization promoting local, state and national patriotism. New members are always welcome! *Cinda Jones*

American Legion Baseball



Back: Tim Kint, Daniel Kyles, Kris Leiting, Adam Tunink, Clint Lackas, T.J. Lackas, Danny Wessel, Austin Backer **Front:** Rick Dominisse, Ian Falon, Chris Rohde, Michael Kint, Jon Gubbels, Colin Schurman

When asked to write an article about Legion Baseball in Randolph, it came with some hesitation. Even though Legion Baseball has been a big part of summer for many kids and coaches for many years, I also found no records anywhere to go on. After many phone calls, I did comprise a list of past coaches (I apologize in advance for anyone forgotten).

The coaches I came up with are: Rev. Cecil Green, Neil Kluver, Al Brandl, Ron Heermann, Marley Wurdinger (2 times), Dan List, Al Tharnish, Hermie (Herman Jr.) Nordhues, Joe Brandl (3 times), Matt Kruse, Steve Loberg, Scott Norvell, Rick Alderson, Darrin Loberg, Darrin Nordhues, Brownie (Roger) Larsen, Brian Bargstadt, Casey Gubbels, Chad Arens, Matt Sweeney, and the current coaches: Tim Kint, Joe Brandl, Rick Dominisse, and Colin Schurman.

In 2007, fourteen boys participated in Jr. Legion Baseball (formally Midgets). Coaches were Joe Brandl, Rick Dominisse and Tim Kint. The season ended with a 10-9 record, but the boys finished on a hot streak making it all the way to the semi-finals of districts.

The summer of 2008 again found fourteen boys out for Jr.'s. This was a special season in many ways for this team, as they went 15-6, and won the regular season title

in the Elkhorn Valley League. They again made it to the semi-finals in districts, before losing to West Point. This season also marked a time when the boys all pitched in to help their program and make improvements.

The boys had various fund raisers throughout the year to raise money for new uniforms and equipment. With the help of the city (providing the sod), and the players and coaches providing the labor, they repaired the baseball field, put up new foul poles, added safety guards on the outfield fence, and put up new distance markers in the outfield. The city and school came together again, with the city providing the materials, and the school's shop class building a new announcers' booth, and sharing the cost of a new P.A. system to be shared by the baseball and football fields. The balance of the money raised by the team was used to purchase a new flag pole placed behind center field. The pole, and a plaque in appreciation of the VFW and Auxiliary for all their years of providing us a concession stand was dedicated on July 3, 2008 with a ceremony, a ballgame with Hartington, and fireworks.

The 2009 season saw the boys moving up to Sr. Legion. As one of the younger teams in the league, and our roster shrinking to eleven, we knew the season would be a challenge. The boys and coaches (Tim Kint, Joe Brandl, Rick Dominisse, and Colin Schurman) again decided to do fundraisers, but this time the goal was much bigger; a new scoreboard. Through hard work with fundraisers, and extreme generosity of all those who bought donor signs, the new Daktronics scoreboard became a reality. The board was dedicated July 3, 2009 with a baseball game with Wakefield, and fireworks after.

The season ended with a 12-10 record, but the season had some exciting games. On May 24th at a tournament in Wakefield, Randolph defeated the eventual state runner ups 7-6. Randolph again met Wakefield on June 4 at a tournament in Wakefield and again came away with a 5-3 win. With the team on a roll, on June 16 they went to Crofton to face their once beaten Sr.'s. The Randolph Sr.'s again came up big defeating the eventual league champs 7-3. The season came to an end at Dodge for the district tournament. The boys again rose to the occasion, putting together some of their best baseball of the season, and coming within one game of playing Wakefield for the District Championship. The "Rub Game" with Wakefield however wasn't in the cards. The boys were beaten by Pender in the semi- finals. Coaching these boys the last four years (we were their ponies coaches too) has really made the summers fun. *Tim Kint*

Boy Scouts of America

Boy Scouting, one of the traditional membership divisions of the Boy Scouts of America, is available to boys who have earned the Arrow of Light Award and are at least 10 years old or have completed the fifth grade and are at least 10, or who are 11, but not yet 18 years old. The program achieves the BSA's objectives of developing character, citizenship, and personal fitness.

Although the presence of Boy Scouts in Randolph has been sporadic, following the Scout Law has remained a very important goal of the organization.

Scout Law:-A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Randolph's first Scout group formed in 1928 with 22 boys registered. The Methodist Men's Club was the group's sponsoring organization. It re-chartered in 1930 with the Lion's Club taking on the sponsorship. In 1944 the Troop's number was changed from #184 to #203. In 1954 the Randolph Community Club became the Boy Scouts' chartering organization. Through these years, there were between 10 and 20 boys registered. In 1986 the Randolph Fire Department is listed as sponsoring 13 Boy Scouts.



2010 Randolph Boy Scouts Troop # 208

Cub Scout Packs are very important in keeping the Boy Scout Troops supplied with new members. The first group of Cub Scouts was established in 1953 with 32 boys listed as members. In the late 1990's, the Cub Scout pack became very active and when the time came in 2000 for several of the boys to bridge over to Boy Scouts, parents decided that the best option was to join a Troop that had been established in Coleridge. This began the tradition for our Cubs to transition to Boy Scouts by bridging over to Troop #208.

Through amazing, dedicated leaders, this troop has raised the bar and become an example for which other troops strive. The troop now consists of boys from Coleridge, Hartington, Randolph, McLean, Belden, and Osmond. In 2010, it had 19 members, and 10 adult leaders registered. Giving back to their communities has always been an important characteristic for our Scouts. Boy Scout service projects have included newspaper drives, Honey Sunday fundraisers, food drives, Goodwill collections, landscaping and painting projects, trail clean-ups, and many others.

The boys always enjoy the "outing" in scouting. Camping nights have been spent in all seasons and weather conditions. Some of the camp areas include Camp Butterfield-Orchard, Lewis & Clark Scout Camp-Yankton, Camp Cedars-Fremont, Thomas Ashford Scout Ranch-Homer, Grove Lake-Royal, Ponca State Park-Ponca, Mahoney State Park-Ashland, Buckskin-Maskell, Valentine City Park-Valentine, Clay County State Recreation Area-Vermillion and Fort Kearney, as well as many remote pastures. High Adventure camping destinations have included areas in South Dakota-bike riding, Colorado-whitewater rafting, Minnesota-canoeing the boundary waters, and Wyoming-mountain hiking. A highlight of the South Dakota trip was performing the flag ceremony at Mount Rushmore. Besides campouts, the boys also participate in Merit Badge Colleges, lock-ins, hiking, biking, ice fishing, geocaching, canoeing, snow tubing, SAC Air Force Museum sleepovers, skiing, snowboarding and orienteering. For the past few years, the Troop has hosted a Pinewood Derby at the Cedar County Fair.

Becoming an Eagle Scout is the ultimate goal in Boy Scouts. To become an Eagle a young man must earn 21 or more merit badges, meet time, ability, leadership, and character requirements. It is estimated that 2 out of every 100 boys who join scouting actually make it to Eagle.

Randolph boys from Troop #203 and #208 who have achieved the Eagle rank are:

Everett Rokahr-	1965
Bruce Sellon-	1970
Kevin Kuhl,	1972
Paul Sellon-	1972
Kim Kuhl-	1972
David Lienemann-	1974
Rich Ballacker-	1975
Shane Owens-	2003
Junior Pfanstiel-	2004
Joe Aschoff-	2006
Chris Camin-	2007
Daniel Pfanstiel-	2007
Ben Gubbels-	2007
Jim Bloomquist-	2008
Joseph Pfanstiel-	2008
Mitch Camin-	2009
Colin Fallon	2010

Chapter EA P.E.O.

P.E.O. is a Philanthropic Educational Organization dedicated to the advancement and education of women. Randolph Chapter EA is a very active part of the International Organization. It was organized May 25, 1931, by Nebraska State Organizer, Josephine Waddell of Lincoln.



Back: LaDonna Leiting, Barb Burbach, Jo Kilburn, Dorothy Jensen, Sue Voss Clarette Berner, Deb Schnell, Nancy Reinke, Carol Speer, Laura Delong, Ruth Ellen Truby, Ruth Preston, Virginia Sellon. Middle: Theresa Stapleman, Sandy Burbach, Sandy Owens, Frances Denison, Carolyn Lackas, Nicole Berner. Front: Tina Nordhues, Lisa Linville, Terri Haselhorst, Peggy Leiting, Sherri Bargstadt.

Present members are forever grateful to Fauneil Carhart who instigated the organization of Chapter EA in Randolph. The chapter was organized in the home of Mary Randall. Chapter AZ, Wayne, assisted. Charter members were Fauneil Carhart, Mary Randall, Elizabeth Stewart, Alma Hahn, Cleo Hoile, Elsa Dawson, Velna Hancock, Olivia Boul, Eva Hill, Elly Sherwood, Efa Nelson, Helen Cook, Marie Wilcox and Edith Graham. Chapter EA was fortunate to have Elly Sherwood, a charter member, in the chapter for over sixty-five years.

Chapter EA takes advantage of community resources and members' talents. Programs presented mostly by members, have kept Chapter EA abreast of the times with books, travel, music, poetry, crafts, and health. Among the traditions are the annual salad supper in the fall, and a silent auction in November to raise funds for our six educational projects. Some EA members attend the annual PACK picnic-a picnic for P.E.O.s from the counties of Pierce, Antelope, Cedar and Knox.

A highlight of Chapter EA's events is the Cottey Party. Randolph High School girls are invited to a view of Cottey College, Nevada, Missouri, which is owned and supported by the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Six Randolph girls have attended Cottey, they are Ann and Roberta Sellon, Becky Lackas, Lynell Jensen, Sheila Stratten and Jennifer Shaffer.

In 1938, Chapter EA assisted with the organization of Chapter EM, Bloomfield and in 1983 the organization of Chapter HZ, Hartington. During our seventy-nine years the following members have had the honor of serving as delegates to Supreme later known as International Convention. Minnie Pitman, Yellowstone 1936, Mabel Lageschulte, Vancouver, B.C.

1940; Elizabeth Stewart, Vancouver, B.C. 1953; Elly Sherwood, Columbus, Ohio 1963; Virginia Sellon, Winnipeg, Canada 1985; Dorothy Jensen, Seattle, WA 1997. Virginia Sellon was a member of the 1991 Executive Planning Committee for the International Convention held in Omaha and has served as an Area Chairman for Cottey College for many years.

On May 27, 1956, our chapter observed the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding with four charter members attending the party. The chapter celebrated its fiftieth anniversary May 24, 1981 at an open house for former members, B.I.L.s, and other special guests. Chapter members traveled to Chadron where our chapter was honored as a

fifty year Chapter, and Elly Sherwood was honored as a fifty year member at Nebraska State Chapter Convention. On May 22, 1991, a sixtieth anniversary celebration was held at a regular meeting; Elly Sherwood, a charter member of EA was honored for her sixtieth anniversary.

A celebration of seventy-five years was observed in May, 2006 and members were honored at Nebraska State Convention held in Grand Island. The chapter membership includes several fifty-year members.

Twenty-six daughters and two three-generation families have been initiated into Chapter EA. Active membership is thirty-seven, and its total enrollment from inception is one-hundred fifty one members.

P.E.O. is known for helping women gain an education. Chapter EA has been instrumental in helping numerous local women and girls with loans, scholarships and grants and also encourages each member to continue learning and to keep growing in spirit.

Golden Sheaf Lodge No. 202 A.F. & A.M.

Golden Sheaf Lodge No. 202 A.F. & A.M. was formed in 1890 under special dispensation granted by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska on August 29, 1890. The Lodge operated under Special Dispensation until a charter was granted on June 18, 1891. This charter has been registered with the Cedar County Clerk.

The first officers of Golden Sheaf Lodge were: Ora McCrary, Master; Sidney O. Reese, S. Warden; Lucien H. Bruner, J. Warden; S.W. Mosher, S. Deacon; A. E. Smith, J. Deacon; Zachariah Bohn, Treasurer; W.S. McCollm, Secretary.

In 1894, after the lodge had been moved from one hall to another for quarters to hold meetings, it was fortunate to procure a hall built for Masonic purposes in what was known as the Hill-Buol block. This was home for the Lodge until 1968 when the Presbyterian Church building was purchased by Golden Sheaf Lodge and renovated. It was necessary to level the slanted floor of the church building. This was done by the volunteer assistance of the brethren under the direction of Brother Pete Milander.

In 1937, Grand Lodge passed a law to give bronze medals to the oldest mason in good standing in each lodge. The first medal at this Lodge was given to Jacob Huey and the holder of the medal in 1986 was Henry Thaden.

On August 29, 1940, this Lodge commemorated its 50th Anniversary. Earl J. Lee, Grand Master and Lewis E. Smith, Grand Secretary, were present. Sidney O. Reese, charter member was present. Grand Master Lee presented Brother Reese with a 50 year pin. Another charter member who was not present, Brother James Thorndyke, was mailed a fifty year pin.

On March 4, 1953, Grandmaster Edward Huwaldt was here to present fifty year pins to Jasper L. Dennis and Jesse N. Dennis.

Thirteen brethren answered the call during World War I. One, Brother Mason, answered the final call. Brother Bert Tindale made the supreme sacrifice on the battlefields of France on October 4, 1918. Later on a soldier found a small Masonic Monitor; inside the cover was found the address of Brother Tindale. This monitor was returned to our Lodge and afterwards mailed to the relatives of Brother Tindale.

Twelve brethren answered the call during World War II and fortunately there were no casualties.

The Masonic Temple (former Presbyterian Church building) was dedicated on July 27, 1968. This service was open to the public. Grand Master Norris W. Lallman officiated with Grand Marshall Leo Stines conducting the floor work. Music was provided by Ann Sellon, pianist and Greg Witte, vocalist. An outstanding address was given by VWB Walter Samuelson, Grand Chaplain.

1986 officers of Golden Sheaf lodge were: Harm J. Timmer, Master; Paul Paulsen, S. Warden; Sandy Carpenter, J. Warden; Paul Dittman, Treasurer; Marvin R. Weber, Secretary; Keith Johnson, Chaplain; Jess Dennis, S. Deacon; Brent Stapelman, J. Deacon; Roger Buchanan, S.S.; Robert Sellon J.S.; and Ernie Voss, Tyler.

Golden Sheaf Lodge No. 202 consolidated with Plainview Lodge No 204 on December 31, 1987.

Modern Mrs. Club

Several young women of the Randolph community felt a need for an Extension club of their own meeting their particular needs and interests. Janet Chapman (a former member of the Victory Club), Georgia Holmes, Jessie Dennis and Judy Rohde made up the Charter roll – the name “Modern Mrs.”

A meeting was held in December 1950, at the home of Jessie Dennis. Esther Buchanan of the Victory Club assisted in organizing the group. Judy Rohde was chosen the first president. In January 1951, Carolyn McGrew, Verna Mae Dennis and Virginia Sellon joined the group. Throughout the first year other ladies joined. Lessons through the County Extension Office were presented at the meetings.



Back: Carol Waters, Elaine Spader, Linda Lulow. **Middle:** Lynn Riedmiller, Alice Goestch, Delores Lammers, Clarette Berner, Ailene Gubbels, Marlen Sellon, Sharon Gubbels, Gennie Riggert. **Front:** Virginia Sellon, Helen Tunink, Virginia Weber, Vayle Kuhl, Beulah Rokahr.

By 1952, the club was well underway and a Hostess/Co-hostess plan was put into use with a membership of sixteen, which are both still in effect.

There have been many varied lessons through the years – speakers on various subjects, book reviews, craft lessons, cooking demonstrations, health information and exercises, many, many tours to places of interest in our surrounding communities, foreign exchange students giving enlightening knowledge of their countries and each year attending the Norfolk Community Theater.

In 1962, the club voted to discontinue the Extension Club and continue the club much the same, but deciding on their own lessons.

Ever since 1963, the club has remembered many senior citizens with a box of homemade goodies at Christmas time concentrating mainly on those living alone without immediate family living in the vicinity.

In 1979, the club undertook the project of binding all the old issues of the Randolph Times at the Library into yearbooks.

Gladys Borst was chosen to be the club's contestant in the 1986 Centennial Queen contest.

The years of 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994 found the club entering the community Christmas tree contest. All decorations were to be handmade. The club did well – winning first, four of the years and second the other two years.

2000 was the clubs 50th Anniversary year. It was decided to do a special project noting that special year –

the project being, renovation of Randolph's Centennial mural. It was completely redone. Joe Brandl was hired as a professional with club members volunteering approximately 160 hours of labor. Generous donations and co-operation helped get the job done in almost record time. It was a summer to remember as much good was accomplished. On October 5, the club celebrated their anniversary with a salad bar supper and a special cake – inviting all past and present members.

Some of the goals and accomplishments have been to financially donate to the Nebraska Children's Home and to the various drives for Polio, Cancer, Heart, etc. For several years, a welcoming party was given for Newcomers to the town. In 1968, the club assisted in organizing the Auxiliary for Colonial Manor Nursing Home. The goal recently added was to make a yearly donation to the Lied Randolph Public Library.

Virginia Sellon is the only member who has been in the Club continuously since the first year. There have been approximately 70 different ladies who have had their name on the membership roll throughout the years.

The Club meets on the first Thursday evening from September through May – with no meetings during the three summer months.

R.O.A.R.

The local non-profit organization, R.O.A.R. (Reaching Out Around Randolph), was founded in 1999. The R.O.A.R. group was formed when the local Jaycee Chapter decided to disband and the members started the new organization, continuing many of the activities and community service to the Randolph community.

In 2003 the local chapter of the LIONS Club also decided to become inactive and R.O.A.R. not only acquired a couple members, but also some of the annual events that the LIONS had sponsored, such as their annual Pancake Day with health screenings and the local fireworks stand.

R.O.A.R. has always been active in the community; sponsoring fun activities for children, teens and adults. These activities have included: dances, bowling, roller skating, Vegas Nights, a Texas hold 'em tournament, games at the Randolph Community Fair, Husker Hoops basketball game, Pumpkinfest at Halloween and Christmas Tour of Homes, etc.

R.O.A.R. is also known for its service to the community and philanthropic activities. The group has held benefits for many individuals to help raise funds for medical expenses or losses due to home fires. The Randolph ambulance, park and high school band, as well as many other local improvements have all benefited from the efforts of R.O.A.R.

Membership is open to all individuals and has a current membership of 30 members.

Randolph Area Arts Council

In the fall of 1989 the Randolph Area Arts Council was organized, becoming active in 1990. One of the group's first events was to sponsor a Christmas Tree decorating contest. The first elected officers were George Bradley, president; Chris Hansen, vice-president; Beulah Rokahr, treasurer, and secretary, Sharon Riedel.

The purpose of the organization was to foster the visual and performing arts in the Randolph community and to provide events and opportunities in the arts to the residents of Randolph and the surrounding area.



The Randolph Area Arts Council Officers for 2009 from left to right are: Alice Goetsch, Sue Arens, Melvin Spader, and Rosemary Nordhues

The first play produced by the Randolph Area Arts Council was "Prisoner of Second Ave." in 1990. Other plays produced over the years were: 1993-"Opal is a Diamond"; 1994-"Maid to Order"; 1995-"Love, Sex, and the IRS"; 1997-"The Odd Couple"; 1999-"Never Too Late"; 2001-"Nonsense"; 2006-"Love in E Flat"; 2008-"A Bad Year for Tomatoes".

Since 1990 the group, in addition to producing play performances, has sponsored many trips to out-of town plays and concerts. Every year the group helps with the Randolph Fine Arts Show at school. They also have brought in college choirs for concerts: Briar Cliff Singers of Sioux City, Iowa and Mt. Marty's College of Yankton, South Dakota. The Council has sponsored many events, such as a community Easter Cantata, "Celebrate Christmas" with Silver Strings Quartet, Randolph High Choir, and all of the Randolph church choirs, Christmas tree/wreath decorating contest, "The Elvis Tribute", and many other events for the community to enjoy.

Our community has truly united its efforts to create worthy and enjoyable events. The Randolph Area Arts Council has a membership now of 61, including couples and singles, always welcoming new members to help with the Arts in our community.

Randolph Area Foundation Inc.

The Randolph Area Foundation, established on May 2, 1990, is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation developed to improve the quality of life in Randolph. The initial Board of Directors included Patrick Rogers, Daniel Tunink, Rick Korth, Vonnie Arens, Neil Kluver, and Roger Johnson.

The mission of the organization is to receive gifts for charitable, educational, literary, scientific, health, or community improvement purposes to be carried on in the Randolph, Nebraska vicinity.

Through the support and generous donations from community members and alumni, the Foundation has been able to contribute towards many community projects throughout the years. Major contributions from the Foundation have been given to the Lied Randolph Public Library for new construction, to the city park for a new concession and restroom facility, and for a new digital "Welcome to Randolph" sign located along Highway 20.

The Randolph Community Improvement grant was implemented in 2002. This was developed to encourage non-profit organizations and individuals to be creative and work toward a goal for the improvement of our community. The yearly interest from the Endowment Fund is used to provide these grants. Through this grant, improvements have been made to the city park with grants for scoreboards, flag pole, and park equipment. Organizations including R.O.A.R, Summer Youth, Boy Scouts, Randolph Public Schools, Teammates, Music Boosters, Ministerial Association, and the Randolph Library have all been awarded funds for special projects.

In 2000, Rudy Kelsch proposed a Veterans Memorial for the community. This memorial is located at the corner of Douglas and Broadway on property owned by the Foundation. It continues to be maintained by the Randolph Area Foundation.

The Randolph Area Foundation continues to provide monetary support for worthy causes which will enhance, beautify, and support our community and its citizens.

The Randolph Community Fair & The Randolph Community Club



1952 Junior Fair Queen Candidates

The Randolph Fair Association was formed in 1904, in honor of the community's agricultural roots with the "purpose of the organization to hold out inducements for fancy stock raisers to exhibit their stock". J. L. Chapman was its first president and the premium list that year included best sow under

one year; set of silver knives and forks worth \$4.00, boar any age; first, copy of Life of Wm. McKinnly and second, two volume set of Shakespeare; calf (cow) nine months and under; oak rocking chair worth \$3.50. August Huwaldt won the most prizes in the cattle division and Tilton Weber the most in the hog division, while R.A. Collier walked away with three in the chicken division. The 1905 event was listed as a "hummer", drawing about 5,000 people and featuring horse races.

The next recorded bit of Fair information (taken from long-past issues of the Randolph Times) refers to the Fair of 1931 being a joint effort of the local high school F.F.A. chapter and the Lions Club. It was initially called the Junior Fair and the first date under this title was set for August 20, 1931. A general committee was established for overall supervision, with specific committees for "housing and arrangements", "amusements", "prizes", and "publicity".

The Junior Fair was held for the tenth straight year in August of 1941, and was called one of the most successful. The grand champion baby beef was exhibited by Marvin Storm of Laurel, with the reserve champion shown by Dick Munter. Forty- eight baby beeves, one hundred thirty pigs, and thirty colts made up the largest divisions of the stock show that year. In the afternoon and evening free acts were presented on stage in front of the grandstand. Another highlight of the day was the ball game between Pierce and Randolph. In the evening a good crowd attended the dance at the West Randolph Ballroom when Hank Winder and his orchestra played. The Fair continued under this format as an annual event until World War II when it was deemed necessary to postpone such activities in the years of 1943, 1944, and 1945. It resumed in 1946.



Pancake Day Crowd

The Livestock Show and Home Ec Exhibits have been mainstays of the Fair format and there have been many highlights throughout the years. For example, in 1985 it was a three day event with a stock show, antique tractor pull, crafts show, carnival, softball and horseshoe tournaments, square dancing, and community barbecue. Similar events continue in this three day celebration, with the 2009 Fair also featuring a family-based evening of activities at the City Auditorium, a teen dance and a street dance, golf tournament, fun run/walk, omelet breakfast, antique tractor display, hometown carnival and barbecue.

The Lions Club was disbanded because of lack of interest and the Randolph Community Club was formed in its place. A large delegation of Randolph businessmen met in the basement of Kessler's Cafe on November 19, 1940, to form the organization. The first officers were

Wm. Eike, president; Joe Rogers, vice president and J.F. Atwood, secretary-treasurer.

This organization continues today with a general membership, board of directors, and officers. The group is active and not only sponsors the Fair, but annually hosts Santa/Movie Day and has organized youth basketball tournaments since 1995 to help offset group expenses and provide a means of donating back to worthy causes and other community events. The Community Club encourages current and new businesses and supports efforts to improve the quality of life in Randolph.

Randolph Community Food Pantry

The Randolph Community Food Pantry was started in 1989 by Darlene Rossbach. She saw a need for such a service within our community and presented her idea to St. John's congregation. They accepted the challenge and located the pantry in the former kitchen of the church basement. The newly formed organization asked for help from the area churches in the form of contact people from each church.

A new addition was added to St. John's in 2002 which allowed the food pantry to be moved upstairs to its present location. This was a greatly needed improvement to the pantry. With this move the pantry became handicapped accessible and allowed the purchase of a new freezer which greatly increased food storage capacity.

The purpose of the Community Food Pantry is to provide anyone with a qualifying income within the Randolph School District with some additional food items to help them out when needed. People who do qualify are able to pick up commodities and other pantry items once a month. They are asked to fill out paperwork that is kept confidential. This paperwork is kept for only a short time that is required by federal law. Needy travelers coming through the area have also been served on a one-time basis.

The pantry has had three coordinators since its formation. Darlene Rossbach was replaced by Glenda Owens, with the current coordinator being Elaine Bloomquist. There has been a number of volunteers who have worked at the pantry by dispersing of food items, picking up food items from the food bank in Norfolk, and helping to hand out special holiday packages throughout the year.

The shelves at the Food Pantry are stocked by a variety of means. Throughout the years, cash and food donations have come from various organizations, clubs, churches, businesses, the schools, and individuals in and around Randolph. Community food drives have been held by the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4-H Groups.

Many items are purchased from our local grocery store, Jim's Food Center. The food pantry purchases their commodities and other pantry items from Improved Living Food Bank, Inc of Norfolk, Nebraska.

Coordinator – Elaine Bloomquist

Randolph Community Golf Course



The Randolph Community Golf Course officially opened on May 15, 1993, the result of numerous meetings, the generous pledging of over \$310,000, and countless volunteer hours. Its origin can be traced to an organizational meeting on October 8, 1991. From this, a fifteen member steering committee was formed. A pair of town meetings held in January and February, 1992, brought in \$266,935, enough for a contract to be signed with Johnson Golf Course Builders of South Sioux City.

The following two paragraphs are from the Community Development Action Plan coordinated by Jack Sauser and Harrison Huwaldt:

“Six volunteers began removal of fence rows; nine volunteer firemen along with seven others began burning groundcover. Many businesses and organizations held money-making activities: a bowl-a-thon, JayCees golf cart raffle, Jim's Food Center gave a percentage of all purchases made at its store, and an alumni challenge.



Don Bermel and Jesse Bauer

Thirteen volunteers installed fences; FFA members, five special education students, and four adults planted 380 seedlings in the course nursery. By May 11, [1992] volunteers unloaded 75,000 pounds of peat moss. The Girl Scouts and Drug Free Youth Group helped with general clean-up. The irrigation system containing about 28,000 feet of pipe was completely installed by Randolph volunteers. Volunteers were responsible for laying and gluing pipes, installing headers, and adding electrical

controllers. Approximately thirty-five volunteers donated more than 3,500 hours of labor. The course was seeded August [1992] by volunteer farmers.”



**Harry Huwaldt taking the first tee off
on the Community Golf Course**

The following two paragraphs are from an article in the Norfolk Daily News, written by Nikki Tunink:

“A golf cart shed and new clubhouse were built that spring [1993]. The shed was constructed with donated labor and paid for with prepaid rental fees.

The city had offered \$25,000 in matching funds for the clubhouse in March 1993. Again citizens pledged donations. Construction of the new clubhouse began May 17, 1993, and by that fall, it was in operation.”

Today, the course boasts approximately 130 single or family memberships. There are now two cart sheds on the property. There are five formal or informal golf leagues for men, women, and couples. Seven tournaments were held in 2009. The most popular have been the Father-Son or Daughter held on Father’s Day weekend and the two day Harry Huwaldt Annual Invitational Member & Guest.

Indeed, this golf course shows that our city’s motto does hold true: It’s the UNITY in CommUNITY that gets the job done.

Randolph Junior Wrestling Club

A group of people approached the Randolph school board in 1993, with the desire to get the sport of wrestling started in the Randolph School system again. Wrestling had been cancelled as a sport in 1986. In the spring of 1995, the Randolph Junior Wrestling Club was organized by Russ Jensen and Bill Gubbels. Russ had been the High School Coach when the sport ended in 1986, and agreed to help organize the group and coach again.

The group soon realized that the only way to build up their team for the future, was to start training, practicing and experiencing wrestling matches at a young age. The first few years, the Junior Wrestling Club was only open to the fifth through the eighth grade students. Once the sport caught on and more parents were willing to help, it was opened to students as young as first grade. There was no fee to join the club.

Russ, Bill and several other fathers, helped at practices, coached at the tournaments and donated their time to get

the Club going. After several years the management of the Club was turned over to a governing board. Charter members of the board include: Jeff and Barb Rohde, John and Kathy Gubbels, and Mark and Penny Dickes.

Chad Schumacher, Randolph High School’s Head Wrestling coach and Bill Gubbels, the Randolph High School’s Assistant Coach, donated their time to run the practices and coach the youth at various tournaments in Northeast Nebraska. These tournaments are held on weekends from February through April each year.

Eventually, the Randolph Junior Wrestling Club sponsored their own Junior Wrestling Tournament annually, as a way to make money to help fund equipment needs of the High School and Junior Wrestling Teams. Throughout the years, the wrestling club has helped fund a variety of needs for the teams including: a new wrestling mat; exercise equipment; digital scale; air purifier for the wrestling room; uniforms for the varsity and junior wrestling club members; as well as college scholarships for qualifying senior wrestlers.

In 2010, the Wrestling Club continues to run strong with board members: Darin and Jackie Loberg, and John and Kathy Gubbels. Practices and coaching is currently done by Tom Shafer, Bill Gubbels and other interested parents such as Mark Bloomquist, John Gubbels and Darin Loberg. There are usually about 25 wrestlers signed up each spring. When the High School State Wrestling Tournament is over, the practices and tournaments for the Randolph Junior Wrestling Club begin.

Randolph Public Library

Chapter 1 - In the Beginning 1916-1961

The Randolph Public Library was started by the Randolph Woman’s Club. They, feeling the need for a public library, began collecting books. Interest in the project grew and books were donated by interested

persons. The books were assembled in a room downtown and made available to the public.

In March of 1916, the Commercial Club having looked into the matter of a Carnegie Library took action. They found the three main requirements were: a site, at least one thousand books, and



Randolph Carnegie Library

maintenance by the city. A Committee was appointed to investigate the matter of a site. The Woman’s Club voted to turn over their collection of more than one thousand books to the library. In September of 1916, the City Council passed a resolution to levy a tax for the purpose of maintaining a library.

Mayor O.O. Reed received word from the Carnegie Corporation in November of 1916 that Randolph's application for a library had met their approval and that six thousand dollars had been appropriated for that purpose.

In May of 1917, the first Library Board was appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council. In August of that same year, it was reported that \$1,034.50 had been collected of which \$450.00 had been paid to Z. Boughn for lots.

In November a notice to bidders was offered, but when they were received all exceeded the amount of money on hand, and were rejected. Matters then hung in the balance until May of 1918, when the bid of J.B. Shearer for \$6,600.00 was accepted in September of 1918.

Construction was started immediately and finished with opening day set for November 23, 1918. Mrs. Alice Monfort served as librarian from 1919 to 1925 in the new building.

In the intervening years, some of the improvements have been: the drinking fountain, indirect lighting system, two new furnaces- the oil furnace in 1939 and a gas furnace in 1955, the NuWood ceiling in the main room, attic insulation, magazine rack and extra shelving, the door book depository, and railings on the steps and stair. Most of these improvements were made while Carrie Miller Kerr (1925-1950) and Minnie Pittman (1950-1961) served as librarians. The Library proved to be an important addition to the community and saw 300-400 books circulating monthly.

Presented by Minnie Pitman for the Diamond Days of 1886.

Chapter 2 - 1962-2002



Children's reading room in the basement of the Carnegie Library

Eva Gartner, librarian from 1961-1979, watched as the collection and circulation numbers grew. There was a definite need to alleviate the overcrowded conditions of the library and to establish a better environment for children and give them a room of their own. It was this discovery that led the Randolph Woman's Club to go ahead with the Children's Library project in 1978 and

1979. At this point a committee of six: Mrs. Jim Kilburn, Mrs. Jim Rasmussen, Mrs. George Bradley, Mrs. Marvin Taylor, Mrs. Roger Johnson and Mrs. Tom Mass were appointed to get the project underway.

A total of \$1600.00 was contributed by thirty-one organizations and forty-one families. Help was enlisted from Brownies to senior citizens, from community clubs to church organizations. In a matter of months, with the outstanding cooperation of the Randolph community, the basement storage room was turned into a children's room with beautiful Disney murals painted on the walls. Story hour officially opened the newly remodeled Children's Library in June of 1979. It was at this time that Eileen Leicy took over the responsibilities of the head librarian.

Chapter 3 2002-2010.

Library collections and services became more diverse with each passing year. Technological improvements had a great impact on library services and required additional space. It was at this point in 2002 that the Randolph Library Building Committee was formed. Peggy Leiting, George Bradley, Jeff and Suz Gubbels, Dorothy Jensen, Pat VanSlyke, and Dorothy Walz served as chair people on the committee with several others helping with fundraising. The committee worked with Joan Steffen, who served as librarian from 2001-2006 and the library board, members including Debra Wiese, Beulah Rokahr, RoseEdna Rohde, Sharon Borst and Helen Tunink, to make plans for a new building. This group worked incessantly to meet the goal of a new 5200 square foot library building. Four years were filled with fundraisers from dancing fireman and local celebrities participating in a night of game shows to a New Year's Eve dinner and wine tasting. Not to be forgotten are all the hamburgers that were flipped and the clothes and more clothes that were sorted for the biannual rummage sales. Although it took much organizing and lots of man power, there was a great deal of fun to be had. All of the hard work paid off and over \$300,000.00 was raised for the new library. This strong local commitment allowed for the opportunity to apply for and receive two large grants. The Community Development Block Grant and the Lied Foundation Trust each made \$250,000.00 commitments to the new Lied Randolph Public Library. On March 12, 2006, Governor Dave Heineman attended the groundbreaking ceremony, which incidentally was held indoors as an ice storm was approaching. Dirt and shovels were brought into the city auditorium and after the speeches were given and the first shovels of dirt were dug, everyone was invited to take a turn. Even the children brought their plastic shovels and participated. Peggy Leiting began her responsibilities as librarian in the fall of 2006.

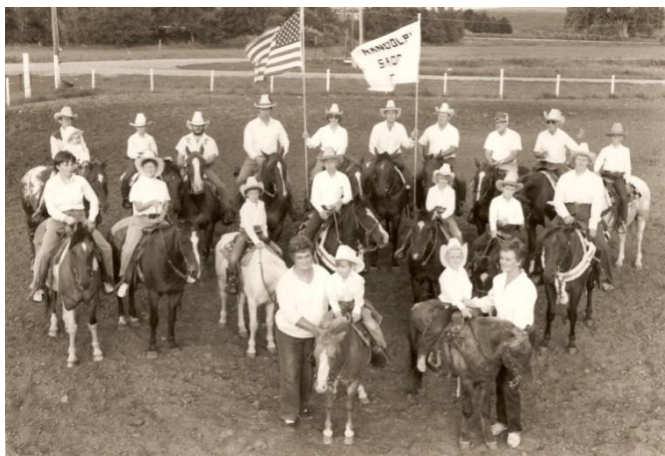
The Friends of the Library organization, stemmed from the Randolph Building Committee, began at this time and was formed under the Randolph Area Foundation. Their purpose is to provide financial and volunteer support for programming and events such as the annual Lunch for the Library and biannual rummage sales.

The building was completed in 2007 and was formally dedicated on April 7 as the Lied Randolph Public Library after Ernst M. and Ida K. Lied, parents of Ernst F. Lied. Prior to the dedication students from the Randolph Public Schools helped move approximately 15,000 books by forming a human chain.



Moving day into the Lied Library

The additions of a meeting room, genealogy room and computer room have made a tremendous difference in the activities and programs that can be held. The library offers more than books with high speed internet and WI-FI now available. Genealogy researchers may use the microfilm machine to view the Randolph Times dating back to 1895. There are also online databases, e-books, DVD's, and audio books. In 2009, a SmartBoard was purchased and is used for interactive learning and games during the after school and summer programs. Once again, monthly circulation numbers of books, movies and magazines increased to approximately 1,250. Computer usage soared with an average of 325 patrons per month surfing the web.



Randolph Saddle Club 1963

The Randolph Saddle Club

The Randolph Saddle Club was organized in November of 1962. The club had 50 horses and riders. Some of the highlights for the club that year were attending parades, play days and trail rides in several different towns.

Don Cunningham was the club's first president, assisted by Paul Young as vice president and Mrs. Paul Young as

secretary-treasurer. David Owens was always a "faithful" trucker for their jaunts.

The following were the members of the first club: Donald Winkelbauer and family, Merle Gerkins and family, Lyle Buschelman, Jim Starkel, Richard McDonald and family, Ed Burbach and family, Glen Gerber, Jack Kavanaugh and family, Don Lenhoff and family, Melvin Graham and family, Avery McDonald and family, Don Cunningham and family, Donovan Pflanz and family, Paul Young and family, Pat Dwyer, Kenneth Huff and family, Ervin Haselhorst and family, Darrell Farewell, Ed Kessler and family, Mrs. Oliva Hegge and family, Janet Holcomb, Jim Backer and family, Jack Reed and family, Robert Meyer and family and Vicki Andrew.

In August of 1967, fourteen riders and horses of the Randolph Saddle Club rode in the Nebraska Centennial Reenactment of the Pony Express ride, between Hastings and Fairbury. They carried the mail for twelve miles, averaging three minutes a mile. Mick and Monte Owens rode 140 miles on horseback to attend the Burwell Rodeo in 1968. It took five days for them to arrive in Burwell. The club also attended the Devil's Nest opening in 1970.

As of 2009, there are seventeen families involved in the Saddle Club. Randy Graf has been a member the longest, belonging since the Club started. Kody Junck is the youngest member. The Club still attempts to attend parades and Horse Shows in the area, and many of the kids are involved in 4-H. Through the years, the members have received various awards for their individual riding achievements, as well as the Club itself. The Club also puts on Riding clinics to help teach better riding skills to kids who want to attend.

In 2004, the Saddle Club started hosting a Full Show, with Pleasure and Halter classes in the morning, followed by Game Events in the afternoon. The Show continues to be a great success and grows each year, with the help of our sponsors and participants.



Randolph Saddle Club 1985

The Club meets once a week at the Logan Valley Corral, across from the Randolph Football field. There is a meeting, followed by riding practice and roasting hot



Randolph Saddle Club 2010

dogs. The club dues are \$7.00 for single and \$15.00 for a family.

The present members are: Roger and Sharolyn Winkelbauer; Chad and Brandy Winkelbauer and family; Bradley and Stacy Winkelbauer and Family; Chris and Catrina Winkelbauer; Brian and Kerrie Junck and family; Randy and Shirley Graf; Andy and Tina Thelen and family; Jesse and Tracy Backhaus and family; Troy and Danielle Graf and family; Al and Sheila Lindemoen and family; Dave and Joyce Fink and family; Mike and Jeri Schmit and family; Cory and Christi Linn and family; Marty and Pam Thies and family; Cory and Kristy Bermel and family; Karen Gubbels and family; Greg and Malinda Villwok and family; and Michaela Strathman.

Everyone in the Club is looking forward to the Q125 celebration and activities.

Randolph Senior Citizen Center

During the early months of 1984, August Marreel, better known as "Gus", began the footwork necessary in order for Randolph to have a Senior Center. He worked hard, got others interested, contacted the Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging and found out what procedures were needed. With the help of Randolph lawyer, Pat Rogers, an incorporated organization, known as Randolph Senior Citizens, Inc. became a reality. An initial Board of Directors had been set-up and was responsible for the incorporation and by-laws. It was on March 30 that this board; August Marreel, Glen Stingley, Ernest Witte, Richard Patent, Leonard Simmons, Paul Tunink and Marvin Taylor, signed the incorporation and by-laws. The work of this board had been completed.

On April 9th an organizational meeting was held at the city auditorium. Thirty-six people paid their \$1.00 dues and signed their name to become a charter member. From these thirty-six people, a seven member board of directors was chosen and officers were elected: August Marreel, President; Glen Stingley, Vice president Ernest Witte, Secretary; Beulah Rokahr, treasurer; Richard Patent, Leonard Simmons and Marvin Taylor, directors. Marvin

was the local news editor and not a charter member. The other thirty charter members were: Frances Anderson, Louise Anderson, Irene Bach, Paul Borst, Louie Broer, Frieda Broer, Dean Collier, Pauline Collier, Dale Cunningham, Mildred Dunn, Roy Gibson, Cyril Gubbels, Mary Gubbels, Vena Marreel, LeRoy Martensen, Art O'Brien, Lorene Patent, Mabel Patent, Frederick D. Rokahr, Darlene Rossbach, Leonard Sauser, Thelma Sauser, Lorraine Sohren, Frieda Stevens, Claribel Stingley, Ernest Strathman, Minnie Strathman, Ted Tunink, Phyllis Tunink, and Lucille Witte.

In June, the members voted to purchase the former Randolph Café and Steak House building for their new center. Solicitation of area residents was made. The response was overwhelming!! Between 275 and 300 households and businesses responded with cash or "in kind" donations.

However, it was immediately realized they needed more than donations. Fundraising was begun. Pancake breakfasts served them well. They were held once each month on Sunday and continued this routine for over two years. They also had soup and pie fundraisers.

By August, they were financially able to purchase the Steak House building. A check was written to First State Bank with Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging supplying approximately 80 percent of the funds. Immediately they applied for bingo and pickle card licenses, so they could begin raising funds for the Center. The pickle cards were discontinued along the way, but bingo still remains an activity. However bingo is not the money maker it once was, due to the lack of people attending.

The Center was opened for social activities such as cards, bingo, quilting, coffee, etc, with volunteer site manager, Vena Marreel, in charge. The ribbon cutting by Mr. and Mrs. Gurney Moore was held September 4, 1984.

With approval of funds from Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging, the first meal was served to 105 people on October 1. It was in October that the first employee, Alfreda Moser, was hired as head cook. Dea Wilson, wife

of the Kansas-Nebraska manager was hired as site manager in November.

Dea moved and was replaced by Mrs. Allen (Barb) Burbach in March, 1985. There were only two hired employees for quite some time. "Green Thumb" workers and volunteers were used for the extra help needed.

Major renovations, by the members, during the first year included; remodeling bathrooms, insulating ceilings, laying new floor covering in the kitchen and adjoining areas, installing of emergency lights and installing a new outside door. Hired help insulated the building and improved the electrical problems. Throughout the years there has always been the "Aim to maintain" a safe and attractive facility.

Most of the activities now remain approximately the same as they did in 1984 – bingo, pool, quilting, crafts, aerobics, exercises, birthday/anniversary parties, sing-alongs, bus tours, pedicures, blood pressure checks, health information, club meetings plus legal and care giving news for senior citizens. The "Coffee Time" is a daily activity, Monday through Saturday and even on some holidays. A variety of cards – bridge, pitch, pinochle and canasta – are played. There is even a "Red Hat" group. The Randolph Senior Center is a busy place!!

Throughout the years – which is now over twenty five – Alfreda Moser remains as a faithful employee and head cook. There have been six managers, Dea Wilson, Barb Burbach, Pat Van Slyke, Ruth Thelen, Joyce Seyl and Lella Arduser. Where "Green Thumb" workers and volunteers, in the early years, did the tasks, there are now hired employees. Those jobs consist of an assistant cook and custodian.

Every member does their part, wherever their talent best serves, whether it be to serve as an officer or director, serve as a hostess, be a quilter, go to the food bank, deliver meals, mow the lawn, wrap the silverware, do the laundry, serving coffee daily, giving cash donations, donating fresh fruit and vegetables as well as paper products, etc., helping with fundraising events by providing help or food, serving as a Center Attendant at different functions, entertaining or being a chairperson, also filling in when an employee is gone or help with the Saturday night bingo. All are very important jobs.

Fundraising is still very necessary in order to operate successfully. Over the years there have been soup meals, potato bakes, Veteran's Day meals, lunches, plus craft table sales at fair time and the monthly pancake meals in the early years. Sales of flashlights, flameless candles and greeting cards are on-going. Quilting has continued to be an ongoing money maker, since the very beginning, as well as bingo. Of course there was the "Randolph Men's Calendar" as a onetime promotion, which was most successful. There have been many others.

October 5-9, 2009 was a special week – a week celebration of 25 years of serving the Senior Citizens of the Randolph community, with activities, fellowship and delicious, balanced meals and continuing to help the shut-

ins by delivering meals daily, as needed. During the five days the living charter members were honored guests on one occasion.

As the years roll on, those in command now will fade away and a new group will be at the helm.

Randolph Volunteer Fire Department



**Back: Brent Billerbeck, Marty Nordhues, Jeff Gubbels, John Huff.
Middle: Randy Borst, Andrew Olson, Chad Winkelbauer, Andy
Thelen, Brad Bargstadt, Don Backer, Mark Gubbels. Front: Jim
Schnoor, Paul Leiting, Jim Scott, Neil Lackas, Lavern Scott
Bob Winkelbauer, Paul Loberg.**

The Randolph Volunteer Fire Department, a group of volunteers who donate their time and services to the city of Randolph and the surrounding area for the protection of life and property, was founded in September 1901, with Wm. (Bill) Boughn as the first chief.

The first equipment the fire department had to use was a two wheeled hose cart. This cart was housed in a wood frame building with a tower and bell and was located on the northwest corner of Broadway and Douglas Streets, where Les Lorenz had a farm equipment repair shop. This hose cart was usually pulled to the scene of the fire by hand. Sometimes the dray lines that were in operation in the city at the time would pull the cart to the scene with a team of horses or mules. The fire department set up a series of signals with the bell to let the people know in what section or district of the city the fire was located. In 1901, the most serious fire that had occurred in the town up to this time wiped out four places of business.

In 1906, M. S. Whitney was chief of the department and held this office until 1908 when P. J. Fritgin was elected chief. In 1909, Milt Waters replaced him as chief. During this time there were fires at the Pill Brothers General Merchandise store, a bakery operated by Carl Farnam and the residence of A. J. Hudell, owned by John Benett.

Milt Waters served as chief until 1915 and during his time in office the town of Randolph almost lost the services of a fire department. In early 1912, the department put on a drive to recruit members to keep a department going. Most of the firemen had resigned because of the criticism they were getting from the people of the town as to the manner in which fires were being fought. At this same time the department owned almost

all of the equipment that was used to fight fires, even the building which housed the department.



Randolph Fire Equipment lined up and ready to go

In 1915, L. J. Pape was elected chief and served until 1918 when H. L. Sellon was elected chief. In late 1917 and early 1918 the department acquired their first motor vehicle, a 1918 Model T Ford truck. During this time, while Harry Sellon was chief of the department, a 1922 GMC one ton truck with two 35 gallon water tanks was purchased and in 1927 when the light plant building was erected, a room was provided for storage of firefighting equipment.

In 1940 a new piece of equipment was purchased. This was a 1940 one and one-half ton Chevrolet truck with a 350 gal per minute pump, a 250 gallon booster tank, one booster reel and 2 ½ inch and 1 ½ inch hose carried in the body.

In 1945, Joseph Rogers was elected chief and served until 1947 when Joseph Schmitt was elected chief. In 1946 the department canvassed the surrounding towns requesting money to purchase a new piece of equipment to answer rural alarms. The department had hospital beds, wheel chairs and a respirator for community use. The fire department continues to be located in the old fire hall at the top of the hill on Broadway Street from 1948 until 1976. The equipment stayed almost the same except for a new truck, a 1972 Ford 1200 gallon tanker, which was purchased by the rural fire board.

The Randolph fire district was organized on August 6, 1968 to include a 127 section district. Tax levies, both from rural and city areas were set to maintain the department, instead of donations, as in the past.

The first rural board consisted of five members: Richard Thies, president; Vincent Schmit, secretary-treasurer; Art Rohde, Leroy Eberhardt and Cecil Leiting. These men served on the rural board for 17 years. Present rural board members are: Paul Schmit, president; Steve Rohde, Marty Thies, Jeff Thies and Dan Haselhorst.

After Joseph Schmitt retired in 1959, Norbert Olberding became chief and held that position until Herb Sauser took over in August 1968. In 1976, when Chief Sauser was in office, a new six bay fire hall was built. It was

built in the 200 block of South Main Street, where the old Fairmont Building, housing Leiting Lockers was located.



Randolph Fire Department hard at work during a controlled burn at the Meyer Elevator

In 2008, a five bay addition was added on the west side of the fire hall, as more room was needed after the purchase of a new rescue pumper truck.

When Chief Sauser retired in 1977, Russell Van Slyke was elected as chief of the department. Van Slyke recalls that the gasohol plant fire west of Randolph on the Jack Reed farm in July of 1982, was probably the most dangerous and costly fire in dollar amount up to that time in the history of Randolph.

In October of 1979, a tool for extrication known as the “jaws of life” was purchased by donations from the general public. The jaws have been used in many automobile related accidents. The department has added numerous pieces of equipment in the past years, such as: full bunker gear for all the firemen, a second power unit for the jaws of life, Scott air packs, exhaust fans, thermal imager and a portable generator, all for fighting fires and assisting at accident scenes.

In the spring of 1984, a joint venture of the City and Rural Board updated the city’s 1939 red pumper truck. A 1975 Ford, 1000 gallon pumper was purchased. The retired firemen have many memories of the 45 year old red fire engine.

On the retirement of Chief Van Slyke in March of 1985, Lavern Scott was elected the new Fire Chief. On December 26, 1989 while Chief Scott was in office, fire broke out at the city’s power plant and the building was destroyed. On May 23, 2000 the Sherwood building on the southwest corner of Broadway and Main was destroyed by fire.

Paul Leiting was elected Fire Chief in 2001 after being elected as Assistant Chief in 1996. Paul, along with the other members of the department, have been instrumental in securing funds for the purchase of three fire trucks, the new addition to the fire hall and numerous pieces of firefighting equipment.



New addition at the Randolph Fire Hall

In going back through the records the following are some names of former fire chiefs: Myron Whitney 1906, P. J. Fritgin 1908, J. M. Waters 1909, L. J. Pope 1915, H. F. Sellon 1921, S. S. Gibson 1929, H. F. Sellon 1932, L. Peebles 1940, Joe Rogers 1945 and Joe Schmitt 1948.

The department today consists of a 25 man squad that meets the first Monday of each month. Besides training and being on call 24 hours a day, the firemen have helped support the summer youth program, Boys' State, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Special Olympics and various community projects.

Randolph Volunteer Rescue Squad

The Randolph Rescue Squad was formed in December of 1967, when Johnson Funeral Home discontinued providing ambulance service to the community. Roger Johnson donated all the equipment from his ambulance, and the city purchased the vehicle from P & M Motors. Volunteers to man the unit were as follows: Henry Walz, Roy Gibson, Roger Johnson, Mick Peterson, Barry Braden, Glen Gubbels, Dick Neubauer, LeRoy Spieker, Bill Dowling, Warren Kint, Richard Patent, Gary Wohlfeil, Ed Kessler, Jack Sauser, Don Bach, Marvin Taylor, David Owens, David Winkelbauer and Albert Borst.

In 1978, the City and Rural Fire Boards purchased Ford Type II Vanbulance, from Smeal Fire Equipment at Snyder, Nebraska, for the price \$19,527.00. A government grant for \$5,000.00 was deducted from this amount, and the remaining \$14,527.00 was shared equally by both entities. The old unit was then converted into an equipment carrier for the fire department.

In 1983, the squad purchased twelve pagers, chargers and a radio encoder to alert the attendants and improve response time. The cost was \$4,877.00, but the resulting reduction in response time made it worthwhile. Response time was cut from 15 to 30 minutes to sometimes as low as two minutes. The pager system was funded by donations from persons and organizations in the community.

After much fund raising, in 1996 a new Ambulance was purchased for \$76,498.00. Money came from the city, rural board, and donations. In January 1997, they purchased the first defibrillator which has been a life saving tool. In 1998, an oximeter was purchased and in 2001 the vacuum splints. IV's can now be started and

nebulizer treatments given. Many Medicare and private insurance changes have taken place which Nila Hesse helps with and also all other billing concerns. All reports are now submitted to the state via a computer generated report that is sent electronically. The process has been started to purchase a new ambulance. This will allow the squad to answer two calls at the same time. This ambulance will approximately cost \$160,000.00.

Persons who have served on the squad and who are no longer active are: Leroy Brummels, John Sullivan, Jeff Sauser, Jim Sauser, Jerry Burns, Don Backer, Harold Linster, Al Tarnish, Leann Schnell, Delores Olson, Jan Kaiser, Rosella Kessler, Karen Lawson, Laurie Weber, Byron Buzek, Scott Sperling, Gail Bazata, Shirley Kint, Mike Marvin, Lavern Scott, Larry Lackas, Linda Cliffe, Brian Vokoc, Marilyn Wiese, Marlin Van Slyke, Jerry Arduser, Tina McCarter, Leila Arduser, Tammy Huff, Carol Roland, Lila Huff, Tracy Anderson, Tammi Dibbert, Chris Clark, Marty Dibbert, Greg Dowling, Mary Rose Backhaus, Alan Ekberg, Penny Dickes, Brad Gubbels, Barb Korth, and Darrell McFadden. In case someone's name has accidentally been omitted, we apologize. Some of the early records are rather sketchy.



Back: Jim Billerbeck, Mark Linville, Scott Wattier, Brent Billerbeck, Shane Merchant, Jim Scott, Clint Clausen. Front: Amie Clausen, Kim Kint, Barb Rohde, Paul Loberg, Julie Loberg, Carolyn Lackas, Suz Gubbels. Jolee Clausen kneeling by the quilt she made to raffle to raise funds for a new ambulance.

The present active membership is as follows: Jim Billerbeck – EMT since 1981, Pam Libra-EMT since 1985, Gene Libra-EMT since 1993, Julie Loberg-EMT since 1996, Barb Rohde-EMT since 2000, Heather Lienemann-EMT since 2000, Suz Gubbels-EMT since 2000, Cole Hammond-EMT since 2002, Heath Hammond EMT since 2008, Brent Billerbeck-First Responder since 2006, Jim Scott-First Responder since 2008, Carolyn Lackas-First Responder since 2008, Paul Loberg-First Responder since 2008, Mark Linville-First Responder since 2008, Scott Wattier-First Responder since 2008, Kim Kint-First Responder since 2008, Amie Clausen-First Responder since 2008, Clint Clausen-First Responder since 2008.

GFWC Randolph Woman's Club

The GFWC Randolph Woman's Club was organized in March 1975. The charter meeting was held at the Linda Gubbel's home on May 9 with 36 ladies signing the original charter. Officers were: Linda Rogers, president; Dorothy Jensen, first vice president; Linda Gubbels, second vice president; Sherry Bradley, secretary; and Gaylene Taylor, treasurer.

The GFWC Randolph Woman's Club works for the community. One of their big projects each year is the Country Craft Store being held in conjunction with the Randolph Community Club Fair until 2002 when it changed to November. It is still held annually and the proceeds go for library and park improvements.



Back: Myra Heegle, Shirley Jensen, Ruth Preston, Jo Kilburn, Dorothy Jensen, Orleta Dowling, Front: Lois DeKay, Marilyn Leiting, Mary Sauser, Sharon Riedel, Beulah Rokahr.

The Club also sponsors a Fine Arts Fair each year for the school and members of the community. In 1976 they began sponsoring the Randolph New Year's Baby promotion, with Dan Lienemann being the 1st born that year. In 1978-79 the club decided to turn the basement of the library into a children's library, using the much needed space. Many interested people gave donations while multiple hours of labor was volunteered by members - painting walls plus murals on the walls, making curtains, etc. A total of \$1579.00 was raised to pay for carpeting, paint, shelves, and other materials.

Other continuing projects since 1975 have been delivering books to shut-ins, welcoming newcomers to Randolph, supporting the HOBY program, sponsorship of Girl Scout Troops, and entertaining at Colonial Manor with a birthday party each January.

The club has done one-time projects such as cards for trees, blood pressure clinic, fingerprinting clinic, convincing the city to institute a house and street numbering system, and working with the FHA girls on a block-mother program to name a few.

It was decided in May 2008, that the club withdraw its membership from GFWC and NFWC but remain a local club. The Club activities and membership is remaining the same. Monthly meetings are held the second Monday

each month, September through May. At each meeting, there is a program which is both informational and fun. Through these programs members have learned many new things and gained a new depth of understanding in other things. Of the 13 members at the present time, there remain only five that have had continuous membership since they signed the charter.

The Randolph Woman's Club welcomes anyone who would like to join, be a community worker and have fun.

Red Hat Honey's

The Red Hat Honey's of Randolph, a chapter of Red Hat Society, was organized by Queen Elaine Spader on October 3, 2003. The Red Hat Society is a disorganization filled with 'ladies who lunch' and are ready to enjoy leisurely times with like-minded friends. Silliness is the comic relief of life and Red Hatters go for the gusto together.



Back: Elaine Spader, Camile Gerkins, Vayle Kuhl, Linda Alderson, Dorothy Jensen, Jo Kilburn, Kathy Pedersen. Front: Barb Hanna, Clarette Berner, Rosemary Nordhues, Nikki Tunink, Jean Gerkins.

The Red Hat Honey's have twelve members ranging in age from the fifties through the eighties. They are: Clarette Berner (Belden), Camile Gerkins, Jean Gerkins, Barbara Hanna, Dorothy Jensen, Jo Kilburn, Vayle Vone Kuhl, Rosalee Nordhues, Rosemary Nordhues, Kathy Pedersen (Pierce), Elaine Spader, and Nikki Tunink.

The ladies wear red hats and purple clothes and mainly get together to have fun. The Red Hat Honey's have enjoyed many activities including a Christmas bus trip to Kansas City and several conventions in Iowa, South Dakota, and Nebraska. They've had parties at members' homes for Mardi Gras, Christmas, Valentine's, Halloween, and special birthday celebrations. Every year in December, the Red Hatters entertain at Colonial Manor, singing Christmas carols and giving each resident a Christmas gift.

Since food and fun go hand in hand, "The Red Hat Society Cookbook" published in 2006 is filled with over 1,000 recipes. Red Hatters, Elaine Spader and Dorothy Jensen, have recipes included in this cookbook.

The Red Hat Honeys believe the spirit of life lives within each of us. It's time to have fun, think creatively, and celebrate you! *Elaine Spader, Queen Mother*

T. A. O. Extension Club/Honey Bee Club

A spark of interest was enough to start a Home Extension Club in Randolph. Val Ebberson, Cedar County Home Extension Agent, came to visit with several people about the prospects of organizing a club at the home of Mrs. Jack (Mary) Sauser. This meeting resulted in the T.A.O. (Thursday Afternoon Off) Extension Club.

T.A.O. Extension Club was born, like many Nebraska babies, during a snow storm. There were fifteen members (and as many children) meeting at the home of Mrs. George (Sherry) Bradley in January of 1979. In October, it was discovered that a change was needed, since there were more children present than members. It was then decided to meet on Thursday evenings when babysitters were more readily available. The following is a list of the charter members: Mrs. George (Sherry) Bradley; Mrs. Tom (Barb) Hanna; Mrs. Loren (Chris) Hansen; Mrs. Vincent (Claudia) Hartz; Mrs. Russell (Dorothy) Jensen; Mrs. Roland (Karen) Knudsen; Mrs. Jerry (Nancy) Lagerstrom; Mrs. Ronald (Karen) McDonald; Mrs. Doug (Sue) Olawsky; Mrs. James (Lois) Rasmussen; Mrs. Jack (Mary) Sauser; Mrs. Louis (Winona) Schmeits; Mrs. Ray (Leann) Schnell; Mrs. Gary (Carol) Speer; and Mrs. Ron (Linda) Wecker.

T.A.O. Extension Club met on the first Thursday evening of every month, with the exceptions being June, July and August. The meetings were based on the special interests of the group. They had many leader training lessons and study lessons that were sponsored by the Cedar County Home Extension Office. Each member had a secret sister who is remembered each year on her birthday and anniversary. The secret sister is then revealed at Christmas during a gift exchange. The members took part in Spring Salad Days and Bake n' Take Days. Even though they did not meet in the summer, they tried to attend a play at Lewis and Clark Playhouse Theater in Yankton, South Dakota.

By 1990, the club changed its name to Honey Bee Extension Club and in 1994, dropped its affiliation with the state and national Family and Cooperative Extension. The group continued to offer programs developed by their members. The group meets only when possible, but the Christmas party and secret sister gift exchange has remained the same.

The 2009 membership is twelve members including: Mrs. Doug (Joan) Albers; Mrs. George (Sherry) Bradley; Mrs. Joe (Janet) Groen; Mrs. Loren (Chris) Hansen; Mrs. Russ (Dorothy) Jensen; Mrs. Jim (Jo) Kilburn; Mrs. Paul (Julie) Loberg; Mrs. Robert (Darlene) McDonald; Kathy Moore; Mrs. Greg (Vickie) Robinson; Mrs. Ray (Deb) Schnell; and Mrs. Gary (Carol) Speer. *Dorothy Jensen Jo Kilburn*

Teammates of Randolph

Teammates of Randolph was organized on October 2, 2002 when the first board meeting was held. Teammates of Randolph is an active chapter in the Teammates of Nebraska organization, which was founded by Dr. Tom Osborne and his wife Nancy. The Teammates Mentoring Program matches a student with an adult who serves as an additional positive role model in the life of that child. Mentors and their student mentees meet one hour per week throughout the school year.



2010 Teammates Mentors

A number of individuals from the Randolph community have served as Teammates of Randolph Mentors. These are: Richard Arens, Clarette Berner, Cindy Billerbeck, George Bradley, Joyce Fink, Eugene Gubbels, Richard Gubbels, Betty Gross, Dorothy Gross, Dorothy Jensen, Earl Leiting, Lisa Linville, Mark Linville, Jack McCarthy, Darrin Nordhues, Rosalee Nordhues, Rosemary Nordhues, Sharon Reidel, Tom Shafer, Joedy Sellon, Mel Spader, Nikki Tunink, Georgine Whalen, and Virginia Weber.

The original Teammates Board consisted of Karen Dominisse, Pat Dominisse, LaDonna Leiting, Lisa Linville, Ryan Porath, Sharon Reidel, Steve Rinehart, Mel Spader, Pat Sweeney, and Dave Waters. Waters and Porath have left the board and have been replaced by Dennis Bazata, Sandy Owens, and Nikki Tunink.

The Randolph High School Class of 2009 graduated the first group of student mentees in the Teammates program. Graduating seniors who remained with Teammates of Randolph received a scholarship to the college of their choice.

The Wareham Country Club

The Wareham Country Club was organized in May of 1940 and in March of 1946 the name was changed to Wareham Club. Wareham was a town located four miles east of Randolph along Highway 20. The original club members included Mrs. Howard (Helen) Black, Mrs. Harry (Ruth) Gries, Mrs. Miles (Georgia) Reese, Mrs. Elmer (Lorraine) Sohren and Mrs. Earl (Grace) Cunningham. Originally the club met at a member's home

on the last Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Now the hostess may ask the members to meet for the noon meal at the Randolph Senior Center and have the meeting at the Center. The Club also has an outing in place of a meeting in July or August to various places of interest.

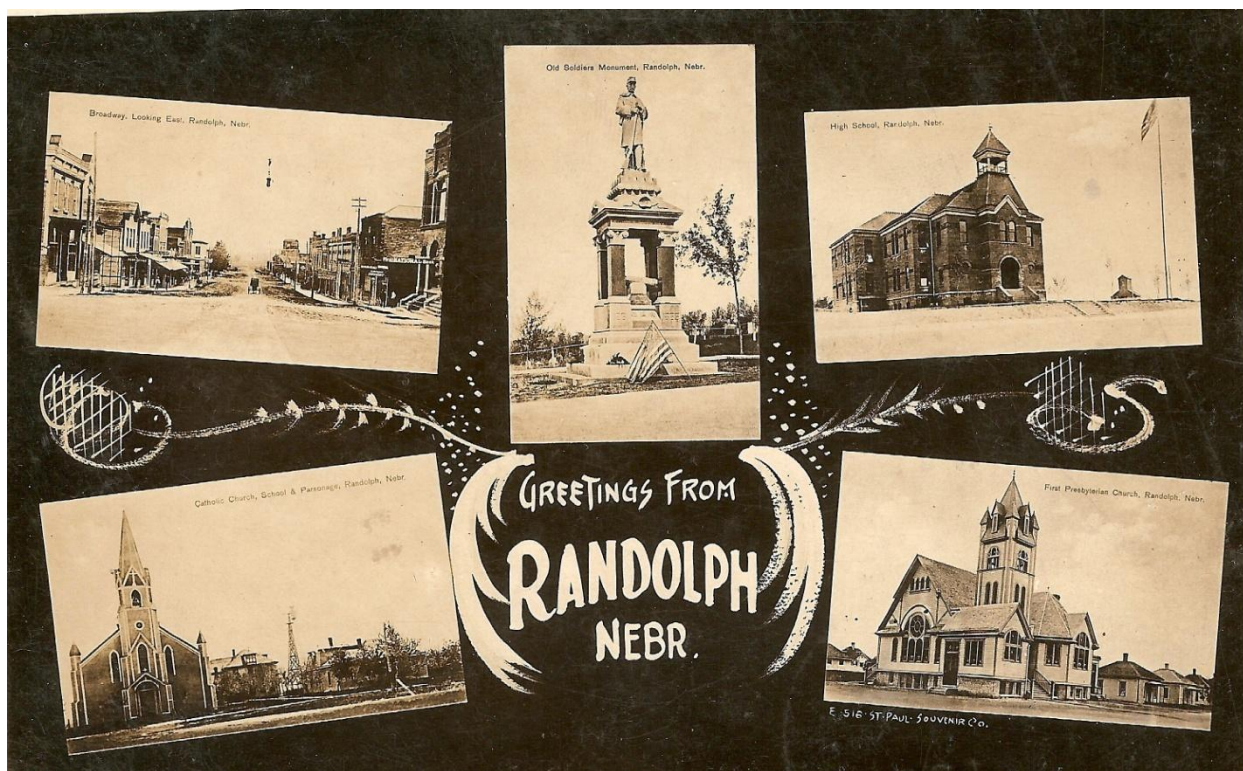
Each member has a Heart Sister who is remembered with a gift on her birthday and Christmas. Donations are made to various causes. Members and families are remembered at the time of illness. Christmas is a special time and is celebrated with dinner and a gift exchange. Husbands are guests at this meeting.



Back: Berdine Brunssen, Laura Delong, Ruth Preston, Joyce Stevens, Betty Gross **Front:** Rosemary Nordhues, Phyllis Tunink and Dorothy Haselhorst

Club members take getting to a meeting very seriously. On March 31, 1960, Mrs. Art (Dorothy) Wurdinger was hostess but the Wareham Road south to her home was impassable by automobile because of the mud. Bill Coenen drove his 1952 John Deere 'A' tractor to Paul Schurman's and hooked on to Paul's two-wheeled trailer made from a 1937 Dodge pickup. Six members were picked up at the Wareham Corner and along the way to be delivered to the meeting riding in the trailer. Those members were Mrs. Dan (Helen) McCarthy, Mrs. Ernest (Lucille) Witte, Mrs. Earl (Grace) Cunningham, Mrs. Bill (Sylvia) Coenen, Mrs. Barney (Nina) Jones and Mrs. Paul (Mary Ann) Schurman.

Members of the club today include: Phyllis Tunink, Mrs. Douglas (Ruth) Preston, Mrs. Harold (Berdine) Brunssen, Mrs. Ralph (Laura) Delong, Dorothy Haselhorst, Mrs. Jerald (Betty) Gross, Mrs. Dennis (Rosemary) Nordhues and Mrs. Delbert (Joyce) Stevens. *Submitted by Joyce Stevens*



Early Day Randolph Postcard