

McDonald woman is chosen Village resident of the month

By Karen Krien

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Irene Kehlbeck is the June Good Samaritan Village Resident of the Month.

Irene was the second child of Matthais and Sophie Goltl. She was born on a farm 7 miles northeast of Ludell on Feb. 6, 1912.

There had been a drought which was broken by a blizzard. Following the blizzard, the minister came over bad roads to baptize her.

Irene and her sister Helen liked walking to their grandparents' farm — often without permission. The Toth farm was 3/4 of a mile but their Goltl grandparents home was a mile further.

Their mother would scold them and warned them that the "boogie man" would get them. They didn't take her seriously until the time she dressed up in overalls and carried a pitchfork, then met them coming home. No one knows how she got back home before they did but the girls didn't go again.

The girls were given the responsibility of getting the cows from the pasture. Whenever they came across snakes, they killed them with heavy sticks.

In the pasture, there was an old dug well about 5-feet across with a plank laying over it. The girls walked across it without ever a thought.

Helen was held out of school a year so she could go with Irene. Before starting school, their mother told them they needed to learn their numbers and their ABCs as an entry to school. So on the first day of school, the girls kept wondering when the teacher would ask them to recite. Finally, they looked at each other, then, in unison, counted to 100 and said their ABCs. Irene later said they were glad to get it over with.

The girls never knew school as supposed to start at a certain time. They played in the pasture, arriving at school whenever they felt like it. Their mother sent cornbread and warned them to eat it, but they dumped it behind a cactus on the way from school. One time their mother was in the pasture and found a dog feeding on cornbread.

They attended two different rural one-room schools. Then, their father decided they needed to attend parochial school so built a house in Ludell and moved the family there. In that school, the German children looked down on the Hungarians (which the Goltl children were).

These school years weren't altogether good times. After confirmation when they finished seventh grade, they were sent to the public school in Ludell. From Ludell, Irene went to Herndon High School for two years.



Irene Kehlbeck

When Irene enrolled in high school, she gave "Normal Training" as a preference. Normal Training was the teacher training and if she completed the training in high school, she wouldn't have to go to college to become a teacher.

Her junior year, Irene attended Atwood High School with her sister Esther. Her dad never taught her to drive but he told her to get in the Model T Ford and drive Esther and a friend, Margaret, to school.

Down the road, Margaret asked if she was going to shift gears. All the way, Irene worried about how she would be able to get stopped, but fortunately, got the Ford stopped just short of a wall.

In 1929, the family moved to a farm south of McDonald where Irene finished high school, completing her Normal Training requirements. That was the last time the training was offered in high school. Her sisters went on to college to get their training.

Because of the large number of teachers, it was difficult to get a job. John Headrick took a liking to her. After a meeting, he brought a contract to her.

There were five Headrick girls in the school. Her salary was \$90 a month but, by taking in children from another district, she got another \$10.

She had 24 pupils in the eight grades. The school was new and relatively modern with a basement



IRENE KEHLBECK holds her cake at her birthday party.

and furnace. She was the first teacher in that school.

She stayed at the Arthur David Farm, 1/4 mile from the school, and paid them \$1 a day for five days a week.

The next year, she took a teaching job closer to home so didn't have to board with anyone. There were fewer students but her salary was \$85 a month.

When she started teaching, her mother expected her to buy things for the house so Irene paid for a rug and living room furniture. Her dad also borrowed money from her, but paid it back.

Irene also paid for her own tonsillectomy. A couple of girls went with her to a fly-by-night doctor in Atwood who took the tonsils right out and sent her home. The surgery took a long time to heal and she was in bed for quite awhile.

Irene was unsure of her plans for the future and turned Ernie Kehlbeck's proposal down several times. Ernie was a handsome bachelor, but bashful, so wasn't going to ask her again until Art Antholz sent him back to the Goltl farm. Her indecision about teaching or marriage was settle then.

On one of their dates, they went to the Goodland fair but other dates were usually movies or going to Luther League, which was the main social way for young people to get

together.

Irene and Ernie were married Oct. 12, 1932, at St. John Lutheran Church, Bird City. The wedding supper was held at the Goltl farm and the newlyweds spent their first night there with Irene's sisters snickering in the room next to them.

The next day, they went to the Lou Antholz farm that Ernie was renting. It was in the middle of corn husking season. Ernie was disappointed that Irene couldn't shuck corn. She had been her father's right-hand man so he had expected her to know how to do everything on the farm.

In 1934, they purchased a farm 4 miles south of McDonald. After many years, they sold the farm to Kent Banister and moved in 1987 to the home originally built by Fritz Kehlbeck, Ernie's brother.

Through the years, Irene was active in the church. Her daughter, Nadine, said she touched the lives of many young people by teaching Sunday school. She also spent many hours quilting both with the quilting ladies and at home, making quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

She was a member of the church women's groups, leading Bible studies both there and in adult Sunday school. She loved to garden and joined the McDonald Garden Club.

The Kehlbecks had one daughter and five grandchildren. Ernie died in Dec. 20, 1997.



State of Kansas Recreation Commission 2008

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The Governing Body of Cheylin Recreation Commission

will meet on the 18th day of July, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at Cheylin School Library for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of funds.

Detailed budget information is available at Clerk's office and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

The proposed Budget Expenditures (below) are the maximum expenditure limits for the budget year.

| Fund | Prior Year Actual 2005-2006 | Current Year Estimated 2006-2007 | Proposed Budget Year 2007-2008 |
|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| General | 31,296 | 48,228 | 34,091 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Totals | 31,296 | 48,228 | 34,091 |

Lease Purchase:
Principal Balance @
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Gregory N. Hogue
Recreation Commission Secretary

Student receives Cargill scholarship

Joshua Johnson of Cheylin FFA has received a National award.

The National FFA Organization awarded a \$1,000 Cargill Community Scholarship Program scholarship to him. The Cargill Program, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, sponsors the scholarship. Joshua plans to use the funds to pursue an associate degree in agriculture at Casper College in Casper, Wyo.

This scholarship is one of 1,749 awarded through the National FFA Scholarship Program this year. Currently, 140 corporate sponsors generously contribute more than \$2.3 million to support this program. This is the 23rd year that scholarships have been made available through the Foundation by business and industry sponsors to reward and encourage excellence and enable students to pursue their educational goals.



Johnson

Scholarship recipients were selected from 6,861 applicants from across the country. Selections were based on the applicant's academic record, FFA and other school and community activities, supervised agricultural experience program in agricultural education and future goals.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 495,046 student members - all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture - as part of 7,242 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

Club Clip

McDonald Town and Country Garden Club Tour

The Tour Committee of the McDonald Town and Country Garden Club decided this year to only tour interesting spots in Rawlins County. This proved to be a great idea as those attending said it was one of the best tours ever.

Nine members and five guests began the tour at the home of Diane Montgomery to visit her herb garden. She has about every herb anyone has heard of. The fragrance of her herb garden was wonderful. Diane explained her use of her herbs in cooking and in teas. Members all learned a lot about growing and using herbs.

After leaving the Montgomery farm the group drove to the Pheasant Farm. Many said that the drive along the creek with all its natural beauty was one of the most beautiful drives in the county.

Brad Leitner was a great host, explaining each phase of the pheasant business, from gathering eggs, storing them and the incubation. Members saw baby pheasants (one-day old) to the older birds. He showed the pens where the hen pheasants lay their eggs. He also told of the winter weather conditions last winter were very

hard on the birds. It was a very interesting trip, as no one realized what a big business Brad has built up.

Everyone enjoyed lunch at Park Hill in Atwood before going to the Rawlins County Museum. There is so much history in the museum it would take several trips to see it all.

Guests of the club were Eleanor Swihart, Suzan Moyer, Ray Johnson, Bud Frisbie and Laddie Kacirek.

Everyone thanked the Tour Committee for planning such a wonderful trip in the club's own county.

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DEADLINE - Mon., July 2 @ 5 p.m.

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