

Haigler school closes doors

By Stan and LaNeta Carlock

The halls are quiet now. The classrooms are empty. The playground is silent. There are no more voices heard down the hill at recess time. The children are gone. Another year of school has been completed. School is out for the summer.

But this spring of 2013 is different for the Haigler community – there will be no more school doors opening here for the next school year. The time has come to say goodbye to a very old friend of education in Dundy County, Neb. – the Haigler Public Schools.

While the loss to the Village of Haigler is great; times change, and we must change with the times. At the beginning of this last school year, there were only eight students enrolled in the Haigler Elementary, and only seven students at the end of this school year.

One year ago, voters in the Haigler community voted to keep the school open; but this year the board of education voted to close the school. Though the Haigler Elementary School building and the school gymnasium were a high expense item in the school budget; money was never the priority issue. The first concern has always been the education of the students. The Haigler elementary teachers were excellent, but the question had to be asked, “Were these elementary students really receiving the best all-around education to get them started in life?”

A look at the Haigler School District historical facts shows 130 plus years of educational training in the Haigler community. From the small group of pioneer parents funding the first school in the 1880s to the first public schoolhouse built in 1887 to the 1914 two-story brick Haigler Public School building to the new elementary school building of 1990; education has been a vital part of the Haigler community.

Though the buildings are now closed, education will continue to be important as children board buses to become a part of the Dundy County/Stratton Elementary School. High school students and junior high students from Haigler have been boarding buses and/or driving to high school since the Haigler High School closed in the spring of 1986. Now, it is time for the elementary students from Haigler to join the others.

Some believe that once a community loses its schools, that community begins a downhill slide. Of course, the community will never be the same without a school---but no, it does not follow that the community then begins to deteriorate.

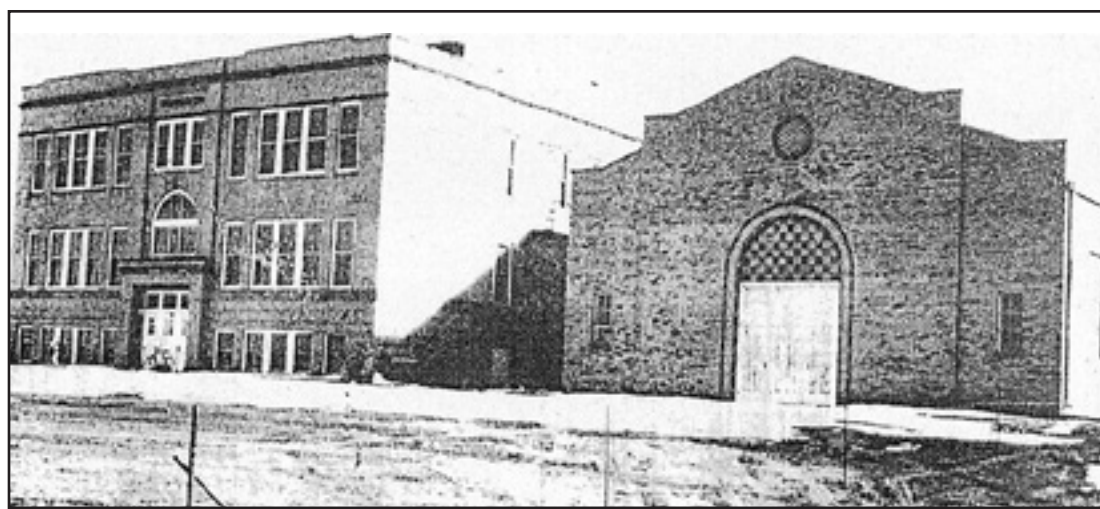
The Haigler community plans to remain a vital part of the education of its children and to continue to play an active role in the educational community of the Dundy County/Stratton Schools.

The Haigler Elementary School, the Haigler School Gymnasium, and the school grounds are for sale. It is hoped that whoever (private or public entity) purchases these properties will utilize them to benefit the Haigler community. A public auction of school contents will be held later this year.

Superintendent of schools, Jim Kent, and the Dundy County/Stratton Board of Education have been most considerate and generous in agreeing to donate many items from the Haigler school to the museums in Haigler: the One-Room Country Schoolhouse District 67 Museum and the Haigler Cornerstone Museum. Some of these items include: Haigler alumni pictures, yearbooks, trophies and trophy case, flags, bricks, pictures, and furniture. Haigler alumni have also donated personal items for the Haigler Schools section of the Cornerstone Museum. Thus, the Haigler Public Schools, 1887-2013, shall continue to live on – in memory, and in the mementos housed in the Haigler museums.



The Haigler Elementary School today.



The Haigler Public School on the left, was built in 1914. The gym, to the right, was added in the 1930s.



The first Haigler Public School was built in 1887.



The Haigler Public School before the gym was added.

Pollinators needed by farmers, ranchers

When it comes to pollinators, Kansas farmers and ranchers are creating habitat to boost their populations and harness these critters' value. With National Pollinator Week beginning, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is using the opportunity to promote pollinators, like bees and butterflies.

Pollinators provide crucial assistance to fruit, vegetable and seed crops, but many species are seeing their numbers fall. Agricultural producers across the nation work with the Conservation Service to create ideal habitat for pollinators and increase populations in simple and significant ways.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service offers 37 conservation practices through the farm bill to help producers create the perfect places for pollinators to forage and take shelter.

“Making room for pollinators on your farm or ranch isn't too difficult or expensive, and Conservation Service wants to help you make those improvements that will not only benefit pollinators but help your land as well,” said Daniel Meyerhoff, acting state conservationist.

More than three-fourths of the world's flowering plants rely on pollinators to reproduce, equating to one of every three bites of food

people eat. Many plants would be unable to reproduce without the help of pollinators.

“Bees and other pollinators provide a tremendous ecological service and that's why thousands of producers have worked to attract them to their land,” said Andrew Burr, Conservation Service biologist. “Creating habitat for pollinators attracts beneficial insects, produces wildlife habitat, reduces soil erosion and improves water quality. Pollinators help keep the whole ecosystem healthy.”

Scientists attribute a number of factors, including habitat loss, disease, parasites, and overuse of pesticides for pollinators' peril. Agencies and partners across the country are working on science-based solutions to support pollinators. Each June, the Conservation Service and conservation partners salute pollinators during “National Pollinator Week.”



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 For a complete sale bill and additional photos visit our website @ gladrealestate.com

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Ad deadline for the Country Advocate will be Wednesday, July 3.



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