

# 60 years of Clay County Fairs

*Editor's note: This is the first of several columns compiled by Sharron Jensen that tell the history of the Clay County Fair. The 2013 Clay County Fair will be held in Vermillion Aug. 8-10.*

In 1963 Mrs. Walter Hendricks (as the secretary/treasurer of CCAFA) was asked to do some research on the development of the Fair grounds. This is her report.

I wonder how old the fairgrounds really are. It would be interesting to know who really started the Clay County Fair. It seems to have been more or less a private venture.

In checking some records I found that petitions were circulated in the county in the year 1939 (the petitions are on file), for the county commissioners to purchase the fairgrounds, but for unknown reasons they did not purchase it.

The last county fair was held in August 1940. The 4-H Achievement Days took the place of the county fair from that time, with no place to hold it but on the streets of Vermillion, the (old) high school, in the (old) National Guard Amory and in tents.

On Feb. 19, 1943, the city council held a special meeting to determine if they should try to buy the grounds. It seemed there was a mortgage against it being held by the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company. On March 1, 1943, the decision to buy was made and the price was \$5,000. Then someone in authority proceeded to sell the buildings one by one.

The County 4-H program and clubs were growing and there was a need to have a place to hold Achievement Days and the only prospect was the fairgrounds.

Early in the spring of 1952, a group of 4-H leaders and other

interested persons decided to see what could be done to acquire the fairgrounds for 4-H activities. It was found that in order to have the county assume responsibility so a tax levy could be set up, it would first have to lease the property from the owner (the City of Vermillion).

Before the county commissioners could lease the property, petitions needed to be circulated to the landowners to approve the leasing of fairgrounds for 4-H activities. It was needed to obtain 300 signatures and on May 6, 1952, the committee members of Eldon Olson, Ed Manning and Conrad Wastlund presented the signatures to the county commissioners.

By the last of July in 1952 the county commissioners had secured a lease for the fairgrounds from the city for 25 years with option for renewal and the CCAFA could go ahead with

a building program. The committee of O.S. Westburg, Les Zeller and Mrs. Hendricks were asked to procure the first building, an old airport hangar for \$3,000 set up minus foundation.

It was found the building could be rented to the Bureau of Reclamation so the committee was instructed to go ahead. In August the committee entered into contract with Lloyd Holmes, owner, for the purchase of the building, which had been upped to \$3,400 because of having to hire a longer boom than he owned.

The 4-H leaders association secured a loan of \$3,700 from Ralph Leer to secure the building and make the necessary fill and foundation. This was the start of the building plan and the first building to be placed on the fairgrounds. It was then necessary for the city and the county to draw up a rider to the

lease so the building could be used for car storage.

On Dec. 10, 1952, the county commissioners, the 4-H building committee, and the States Attorney Martin Weeks Jr. met to discuss plans for supervision of the fair grounds. Weeks explained the law and what procedures would be. It could be set up and run by the commissioners or could be turned over to some non-profit organization. The commissioners said they did not care to run the fair grounds.

It was decided a board of representatives of the entire county be set up to supervise the property, to form a corporation, and the committee would move ahead with prospects of getting a building for the girls exhibits.

Weeks was asked to investigate and find out if the old Clay County Fair Board was still in existence, and to find a copy of the old constitution. It was found it was no longer in existence.

## Driver licensing station has moved

The South Dakota Driver Licensing Exam Station in Vermillion is at a new location effective on Thursday, July 18.

The exam station will be in Hallmark Square, 11 E. Cherry St. The station is open every Thursday and Friday from 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Applications are accepted for driver licenses or non-driver ID cards until 4 p.m. each day the station is open, said Cindy Gerber, director of the South Dakota Driver Licensing Program.

Gerber reminded those wishing to obtain or renew a driver license that changes in federal regulations require more documents to be presented at the exam station. A complete list of the required documents is available on the Driver Licensing Program Web site at <http://dps.sd.gov> or by calling (800) 952-3696.

"If you don't have the specific documents listed, or if you are uncertain whether one or more of the documents you have will meet the federal requirements, please feel free to contact the Driver Licensing Program," Gerber said.

Here is a summary of the documents required for

obtaining a driver license:

One identity document, such as a certified birth certificate or a valid unexpired U.S. passport. (Note: If your name is different than the name on your identity document, you will need to bring additional proof of your legal name, such as a certified marriage certificate, adoption document or divorce decree. A passport will work, if the name on the passport matches the name on your current driver license).

One document proving Social Security number. Acceptable documents are a Social Security card, W-2 form, SSA 1099 form or pay stub (which must include Social Security number and name).

Two documents proving residential address.

Acceptable documents include utility bill, credit card statement, pay stub, rent receipt, phone bill, transcript or report card from accredited school, bank statement, mortgage or tax document, homeowner or renter insurance policy. (A parent's proof of address is acceptable for a minor child.)

## Heine is scholarship recipient

Allison Heine, daughter of Kelly and Todd Heine, Vermillion, was chosen as the recipient of the Janice L. Miller 4-H Scholarship sponsored by the family of Janice L. Miller.

Heine graduated from Vermillion High School in May and will be attending South Dakota State University in Brookings this fall to pursue a career in Dietetics.

Janice Miller was a life-long resident of Clay County, growing up in the Meckling area. She farmed with her husband Clifford and raised four children, Michelle, Celeste, Carlton and Jason, who were all active in the Clay County 4-H program. She encouraged their involvement in all aspects of 4-H, understanding the skills obtained through 4-H would serve her children well



Heine

into their adult lives. Janice believed in the ideals of the 4-H program - "To Make the Best Better."

Janice was a home economics education graduate from South Dakota State University. She taught home economics in Parker, Viborg and Vermillion. She enjoyed her teaching career and inspired many students to explore their talents in the arena of domestic sciences.

The family of Janice L. Miller is proud to offer an annual \$100 College Scholarship to a current or former Clay County 4-H member who plans to attend a South Dakota college or university and displays active involvement in Youth In Action, Leadership and Civic Involvement.

For more information, contact the Clay County Extension Office at (605) 677-7111.

## Online training for garden programs Aug. 14

Interested in using a garden as a teaching tool with children? SDSU Extension is offering a series of Webinars for garden educators. Schoolteachers, afterschool and summer garden program leaders and helpers are all encouraged to participate in the 'Youth in the Garden Webinars.'

Webinars are scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month.

The next session will be held Aug. 14 from 10-10:30 a.m.

To participate in the Webinar, visit [www.iGrow.org/events](http://www.iGrow.org/events) and click the link within the event posting.

Participants are encouraged to log in within 15 minutes of the specified time.

Lavonne Meyer, food safety field specialist will offer information on

safe practices for handling the harvest with "Food Safety in the Garden."

Chris Zdorovtsov, SDSU Extension community development field specialist will present lessons on insects, soil, plant growth and more with "Science in the Garden."

## OBITUARIES

### Anne Iversen

Anne Iversen, 86, of Vermillion, died on Monday, July 15, 2013, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.



Iversen

Anne-Lise Nielsen was born on Dec. 8, 1926, to Johannes and Marie (Hansen) Nielsen in Rodvig, Denmark. Her father was a fisherman and her mother worked as a professional cook. Anne lived and worked in Copenhagen during the German occupation of World War II, which she remembered as a very fearful time. It was there Anne-Lise met Elmer Iversen, a U.S. Army soldier with Danish parents. In 1947, she traveled to South Dakota where they were married, and settled on the family farm near Gettysburg. She became a naturalized citizen on June 12, 1952, and loved both her home and adopted countries for the remainder of her life. Their only daughter, Deborah, was born in 1955, and was

cherished by both of her parents. Anne and Elmer dissolved their marriage in 1968.

Anne lived in Gettysburg and worked for 17 years at Oahe Manor nursing home. In 1983, she moved to Vermillion to be closer to her daughter, Deb's family. She worked at the Vermillion Hospital, and the Vermillion School District until she retired.

In 2003 she moved to Town Square Apartments where she enjoyed sharing her culinary skills, and playing cards, bingo and dominos with her many friends.

Anne was an avid gardener, cook, and award-winning bowler. She won the women's bowling state tournament championship in 1964, and bowled a 716 series at an event in 1968. She loved watching sports, and never missed a tennis tournament, or an Olympic event.

Her knitting and crocheting skills were well known in the communities where she lived as she made many children's sweaters, which have become family heirlooms.

She was an adoring grandmother who attended

every event, and shared her numerous crafting and culinary skills, but most of all she shared her time and love. She was affectionately known to many as "Grandma Anne."

She was preceded in death by her parents, and brothers, Bent and Ernst. She is survived by her daughter, Deborah (Doyle) Karpen of Jefferson; her granddaughters, Abby (Matt) Erickson of San Antonio, TX, Roxanne Karpen of New York, NY, Whitney Karpen, of Mill Creek, WA; and great-grandchildren Gabrielle, Colin and Dane Erickson.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Monday, July 22, 2013, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion, with Pastor Trisha Boese officiating. Family visitation will be held one hour prior to the services. Cremation and interment will follow at a later time.

Memorials may be directed to the Vermillion Area Food Pantry, 816 E.

Clark St. Vermillion, SD 57069.

Services were entrusted to Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion.

Condolences may be posted online at [www.koberfuneralhome.com](http://www.koberfuneralhome.com).

### Marsha Bruning

Marsha Bruning, 70, of Oro Valley, AZ, formerly of Vermillion, passed away in her home on July 19, 2013.

She was born to the late Robert and Eleanor Cable on July 25, 1942, in Rapid City. She grew up predominantly in Beresford, before graduating from Rapid City Central High School in 1960.

She attended Doane College in Crete, NE where she earned an associate degree. She later graduated from the University of South Dakota with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. She married Wayne Bruning in 1962 and they spent much of their adult life in

Vermillion, before relocating to Arizona in 2002.

Marsha began a teaching career in Papillion, NE in 1963. She taught elementary and middle school for nearly 30 years before retiring in 1995. She was passionate about education and touched the lives of many students throughout her career.

Marsha was an active member of P.E.O along with various other service and community groups. She was an accomplished card player and particularly enjoyed the camaraderie of her numerous bridge groups over the years.

Grateful for having shared Marsha's life are her husband, Wayne of Oro Valley, AZ; two sons, Scott (Sarah) of Vermillion, and Steve (Christine) of Sioux Falls; brother, Robert Cable of Somerville, MA; and cousin, Karen Ferris of Vermillion. She is also survived by four grandchildren, Michael, Lexie, Ben and Miley.

A celebration of Marsha's life will be held at Vistoso Community Church in Oro Valley, AZ, on July 25, 2013, and also in Vermillion at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in Marsha's name.

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