

ELKHORN HISTORY

1967 TO 1995

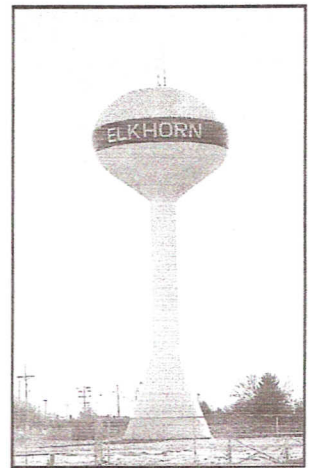


The Elkhorn Depot, 1896.

In 1896, the Elkhorn Depot served as a landmark for those travelling west. Today, the Elkhorn water tower identifies, for those coming into the city, their destination.

This year's eighth graders will be known forever as the "Class of 2000." In four more years they will graduate and leave the Elkhorn Schools to either look for employment or to further their education. Because the future will be marked by these students in a special way, it was decided that they should in some way note the past. For this reason, they explored in their history classes the ways in which Elkhorn has changed since the Elkhorn Centennial in 1967. Caroline Hess Holling compiled, with others, information tracing the beginnings of this frontier town. This booklet is an attempt to add as many facts and stories as we could find. We know it is not complete, but perhaps it is a start. Hopefully others will add their stories and colorful details.

This booklet is dedicated to the people in the past, like Mrs. Holling and the Centennial Book Committee, who attempted to preserve our connection to the past. It is also dedicated to these eighth grade students who tried to glimpse the past, see the present, and provide for future Elkhorn students, their understanding of Elkhorn's history.



Elkhorn Water Tower

- Carol Richart
Eighth grade history teacher and
project coordinator



Left to right: Sheri Kalina, Justin Carey, Elizabeth Bartz, Brooke Metschke, Kristina Wulf, Dennis Lynch, Jared VanAnne, Stacy Bruno, Katie Ringenberg.



Left to right: Sydney Fry, Diane Sylofsky, Kim Wiczorek, Julie Brinkman, Traci Elliott, Christina Lujan, Mike Payne.



Left to right (back row): Rhonda Quiones, Sara Jensen, Leslie Phillips, Jennifer Taylor, Tim Hawver, Lee Hanten, Matt Sharp, Joshua Litton, Matt Krakowski. Front row: Alyssa Breci, Courtney Meisinger, Rebecca McFarland, Jennifer Biscamp, Miranda Campbell, Katie Hoffman, Catherine Jackson, Justin Schmidt, Nicole Uleman.



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CREATORS of the BOOK

8th Grade Class of 1996



Left to right (back row): Theresa Garlow, Lauren Clark, Brenda Reason, Ryan Wright, Drew Luebe, Beau Bump, Nick Malesa, Zack Packett, Johnlouis Sari. Middle row: Tiffani Ulrich, Shawna Hickson, Amy Dritley, Melissa Willette, Jarod Zastrow, Sarah Benzel, Tom Barrett. Bottom row: Rachel Manske, Bregan Wherry, Corey McKenna, John Baer, Paloma Soria, Alice Schmidt, Sara West.

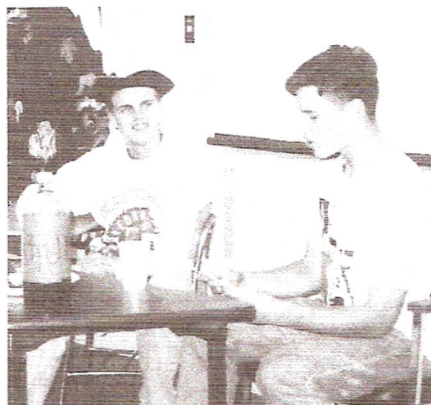


Left to right (back row): Bryan Clark, Scott Hightower, Nick Ridder, Shane Snyder, Tyler Bruhn, Tina Weis. Kneeling: Jason Taylor, Wendy Schutt, Shawn Poodraza, Dennis Lynch.

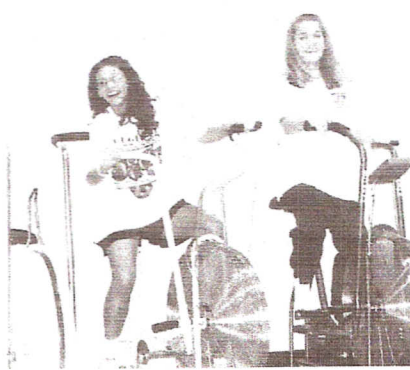
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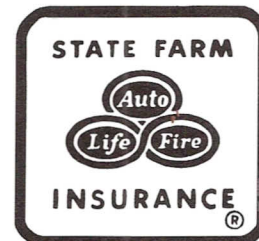
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In 1967 three women, along with the Centennial Book Committee and the Elkhorn Woman's Club, undertook the task of recording Elkhorn's history. The next few pages are excerpts from that book.

Chapter 1 The Early Years



Main Street, 1919.

The town of Elkhorn, or Elkhorn Station, takes its name from the Elkhorn River which empties into the Platte River a short distance from the town. It was incorporated by an act of the legislature, approved December 30, 1886. "Ta-ha-zouka" (Elk's Horn), from whom the Elkhorn River takes its name, was associated with Blackbird, an Omaha Chief, in a treaty with the Spanish Governor-General of Louisiana in 1793.

The first settlers around Elkhorn were the homesteaders who lived on the bluffs adjacent to the Elkhorn River during early 1850's. Here water was easily obtained, and wood for fuel and building purposes was abundant. Lumber for the first building was obtained from a sawmill at Forest City, where the Elkhorn joins the Platte. [Cemetery of that settlement is now located near the housing development of Tara Linda.]

When building the railroad, the Union Pacific established a series of stations for water stops, supplies, and housing of personnel. Such a station was placed at the site of Elkhorn and was called Elkhorn Station. At this time Elk City was called Elkhorn City. Elkhorn Station was one such station which developed into a permanent town, and in 1866 under territorial government a post office was established with William Janney as the postmaster. In 1867, after Nebraska became a

state, John Adams was appointed postmaster, and the name was changed back to Elkhorn again, causing confusion with Elkhorn City, so it was called Douglas after the county, Douglas, in which it is located. This also proved unsatisfactory, so the name was finally and permanently changed back to Elkhorn, and Elkhorn City was given the name Elk City. The building of the Union Pacific Railroad west of Omaha prompted and fostered the growth of Elkhorn. The rails passed through Elkhorn in January of 1866 According to Crawford History, Elkhorn was incorporated in 1872. One of the requirements of the law before a village could be incorporated, was to have at least one hundred twenty-five inhabitants. In order to get the required number it was necessary to count some of the Indians living nearby at that time . . .

George Crawford built many of the first buildings in Elkhorn — a hotel, blacksmith shop, and a warehouse In 1868 he shipped three tons of furs and buffalo hides to St. Louis, Mo. Mr. Crawford had a booming business; it approximated nearly \$400,000 per year. He was tie and wood purchasing agent for the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

The Maha or Omaha Indians ceded Douglas County to the United States In February 1854. By the time the new town was founded, the Indians in the area were

quite peaceable. Many, if not all of them, were fur trappers.



Old Highway 31, looking north.

Interesting Stories

In the summer of 1872, Mr. Parmalee, Mr. Sweezy and Mr. Crawford bought and drove 2,000 head of cattle from New Mexico to Elkhorn. These cattle were fed in the cornfields along the headwaters of the Papio Creeks. As the cattle were fattened, they were sold to the United States government and delivered to various Indian tribes living on government reservations. This was the government's obligation to the Indians in accordance with a treaty.

On April 17, 1873, a Spaniard by the name of New Moon, and one of the cattle herders, became involved in a quarrel. The Spaniard shot a man, and dragged him at the end of his lariat rope from the herd ground to the boarding house and saloon of Nick Kane. After telling the people to bury the man, he fled and that was the last ever seen or heard of the Spaniard. He was thought to be one of the drovers who helped Mr. Crawford bring the cattle up from New Mexico.

On December 19, 1873, Dan Parmalee and Tom Koehler (Keeler), both farmers living near Elk City, and bitter enemies, had promised to kill each other on sight. One day they met on the north edge of Elkhorn, each driving a team and wagon. Upon seeing each other, both jumped out on opposite sides of their teams. Koehler was armed with a double-barreled shotgun, and Parmalee with a high-powered rifle. In the ensuing "shoot-out," though Parmalee was hit first on his arm by scattered buckshot, his rifle proved to be the better weapon and he succeeded in killing Koehler. Parmalee was exonerated by the court.

The corn crop along the Papio Creeks was unusually good in 1872. The crops in the western part of the county, and all along the Elkhorn and Platte Rivers, were completely destroyed by grasshoppers. During that fall and winter a group of farmers in this vicinity bought several thousand head of small pigs from the people in the grasshopper infested area, because they would be unable to feed them. The price that was paid for these pigs was about one cent per pound. These young pigs were brought to Elkhorn by rail and were fed corn that was purchased from the farmers living east of Elkhorn along the Papio Valley. During the winter nearly half of the hogs died of cholera. The feedlot was literally covered with dead hogs. The Pawnee Indians living on the reservation near Genoa, having been told about this, came to Elkhorn in droves to get their winter supply of pork. They rode their ponies to Columbus and came by train from Columbus to Elkhorn. (The Indians were granted the privilege of riding free on the trains at that time.) Then they cut up the carcasses of the dead hogs, loaded them on the train and took them back to Columbus. At Columbus the meat was packed on their ponies and taken back to the reservation. These Indians fared so well on the meat, that next spring they looked healthier than ever.

It is interesting to note that a stage line was operated by George Crawford between Elkhorn and Lincoln. The Capitol of Nebraska had been moved from Omaha to Lincoln in 1868. During the first session of the legislature this stage line transported from 75-100 passengers daily. The stagecoaches used were old army ambulances or "carryalls." They were high wheeled spring wagons with a covered box some 16 feet in length, and were usually drawn by eight horses. At times as many as twelve horses were used to pull these coaches. The stage line crossed the Platte River on a ferry owned by George Crawford and Matt Shields. This stage was operated until 1871

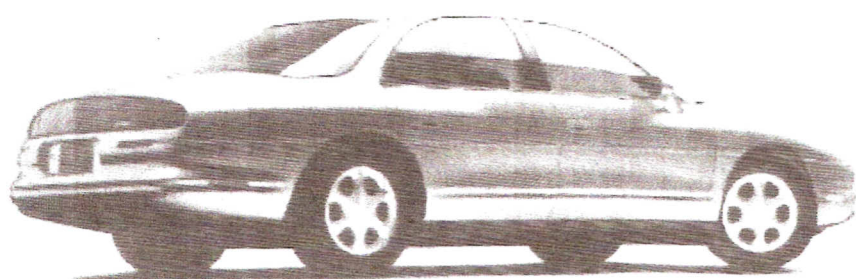


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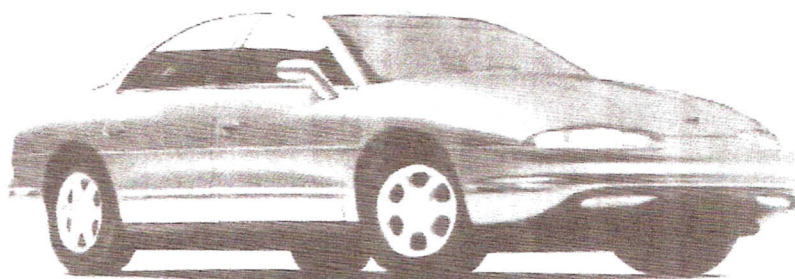
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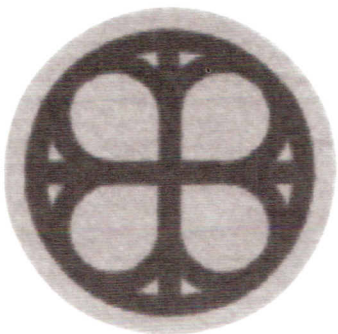
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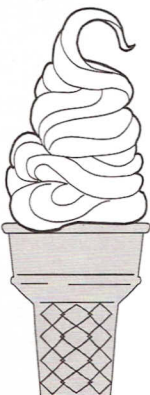
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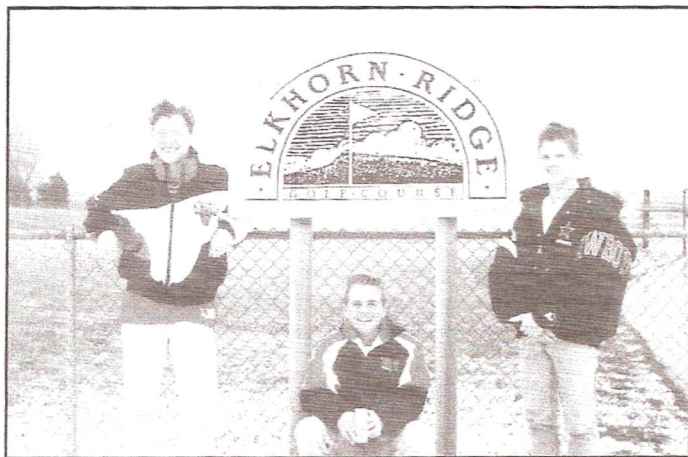


Chapter 2 Entertainment

Research completed by: Nik Ridder, Tyler Bruhn, Wendy Shutt, Tina Weis, Shane Snyder, Brian Clark, Shawn Podraza, Scott Hightower, and Jason Taylor.

In Caroline Holling's book, under "Chapter 4 — Socializing," she talked about the Spelling Bees and Debates that were favorites. She also stated that the "Fourth of July Celebration was important to the community, and programs were planned with contests and games, augmented by booking a small carnival."

Ironically enough, Elkhorn resident Nan Fallon, in September, 1995, talked to the City Council about reviving a Fourth of July celebration. Perhaps the community will find that some of the old favorites will be this generation's favorites too. But if one were to superficially compare the social life of Elkhorn in 1967 with the Elkhorn today, probably the most notable changes one would recognize is the number of golf courses, the popular bowling alley and the park area.



Shane Snyder, Tyler Bruhn, Brian Clark

Dan D. Stoller told us that he (along with others) built the **Elkhorn Ridge Golf Course**, with a driving range, in the fall of 1987. They added the batting cages in 1993. He stated that this property is on the old Roberts Dairy Farm, and a part of the golf course covers an old trapshooting range which was set up on the farm years ago. During construction, and for the first couple of years, he stated that used shotgun shells were found which probably had worked their way out of the ground.



Indian Creek Golf Course

Also new to Elkhorn is the **Indian Creek Golf Course**. The developer was Gottsch Enterprises. It's an 18 hole course. Some people like the variety of tees. Along with the usual red and white tees, it also has black tees for the very experienced golfer.

Of course also in the Elkhorn area is the **Skyline Golf Course**. Although not located as close to the heart of Elkhorn as the above mentioned courses, it still serves the community. Also, as Elkhorn has expanded further and further south, it is within walking distance of some of the people that claim Elkhorn as their community. This course was developed in 1983. Well-lit streets with curbs, gutters, and storm sewers were installed. Additional wells were drilled, tripling their watering capacity, and substantial work on the underground irrigation system was begun. Tees and greens were converted to automated computerized controllers. In 1982, the improvements for a residential housing development were commenced. Sewer lines, a sewage treatment plant, and underground power and phone lines were installed. A planting and landscaping program was also begun and over 1,000 trees, shrubs, and flowers were planted on the grounds. Today, Skyline Woods Country Club is blossoming into one of the area's premier golfing facilities.

Steve Sempeck and Fred Hendricks have owned **Gateway Lanes** since 1988. It was built by the Howard Sachs family in 1964. According to Mr. Sempeck, approximately 1,500 bowlers pass through Gateway Lanes every week. Mr. Sempeck also stated that the business is pretty well split between bowling, keno, and food. Presently there are over 20 leagues for adults and “kids.”



Tyler Bruhn, Shane Snyder, Brian Clark

The **video rental** businesses is a diversion that was not available to those in the 1960's. Most of those opened in the 1980's and because of the demand have grown tremendously.

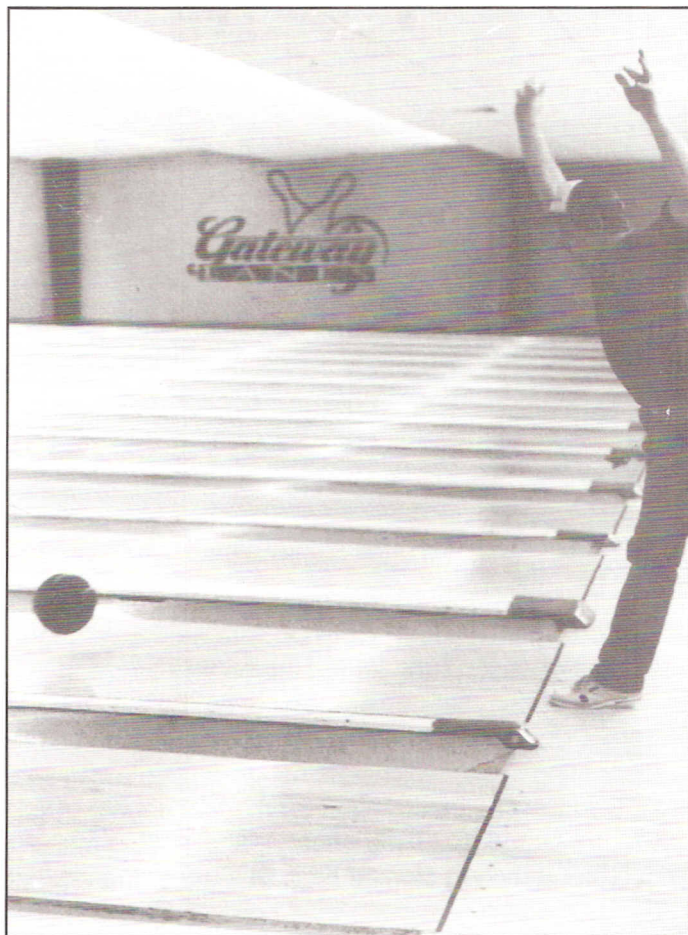
Besides the expansion of private business into the entertainment arena, the city has tried to provide opportunities for socializing as well. The **swimming pool** was constructed in 1972 and the **park** was developed in 1975. City officials stated that over 5,000 people frequented the pool in the summer of 1995. The mayor, Mr. Klein, also stated that the city is currently studying the possibility of additional renovations to both public facilities.

Dan Stoller, Gary Anderson, Stan Baatz, and Steve Carey have worked very hard in the area of Elkhorn Baseball. The American Legion team has won the State Championship three times (including 1995) and the Midgets also won the State Championship in 1995. Elkhorn also had winners in the Pony division. This love of baseball is not new to Elkhorn though. The 1867-1967 Centennial book indicated that in 1912, Elkhorn had the “Elkhorn Eagles - Fat and Lean Ball Team.” That team is gone now but not surprisingly, many of the names — Denker, Bull, Thiessen, McArdle — still show up in sports rosters.

Rick Benzel and Dr. Roger Breed have worked very hard in the development of Elkhorn Soccer.

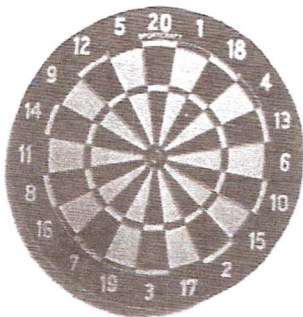


Denker Ballroom before it burned down in the 1980's. In 1934, Charles Parkening built an outdoor dance pavilion at the Elkhorn Park, and thus began a season of open-air dances.



A bowler practices for a competition. The bowling alley is currently owned by Fred Hendricks and Steve Sempeck.

Photo by Jolene Strehle



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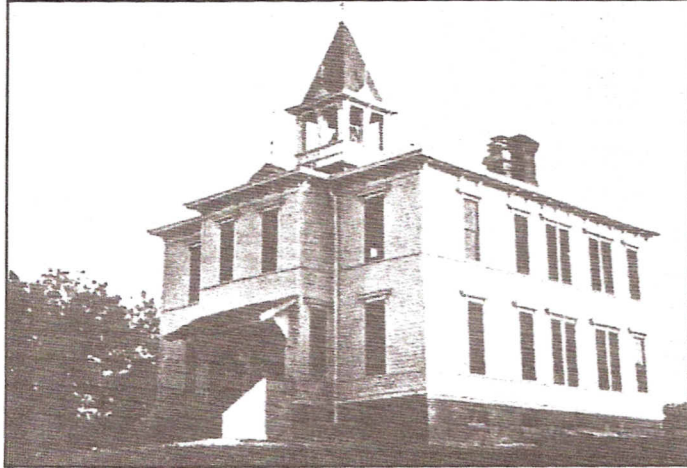
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Chapter 3 Education

Research completed by: Traci Elliott, Diane Solofski, Christine Lujan, Megan Olson, Kim Wiczorek, Matt McKenna, Mike Payne, Sydney Fry, and Julie Brinkman.

The following two paragraphs, taken from the 1967 Centennial book, give us some background on Elkhorn's school system.



Elkhorn Public School — Occupied 1886-1930

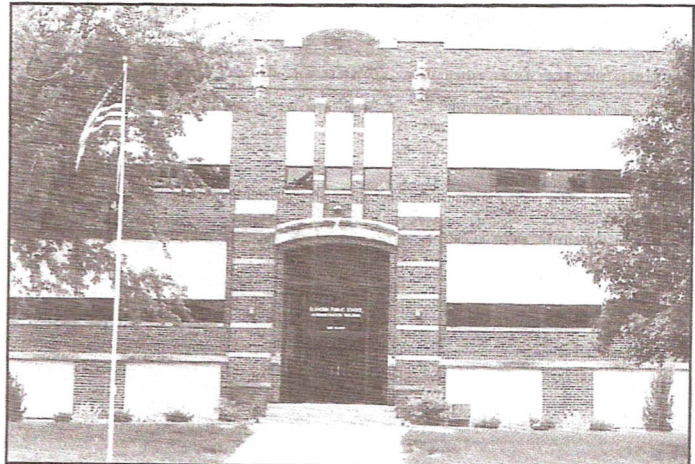
The homesteaders in this area built a log schoolhouse on the hill just southwest of Elkhorn, possibly in the 1850's. After using the building for both a school and community building for a number of years, it burned and was replaced in 1869. While they were without a schoolhouse, classes were held in the Crawford warehouse for two winters and one summer. The new school building was erected just south of the tracks and Main Street. In 1886 a two-story building consisting of four classrooms and an office was built by Henry Rasmus. This building stood on land which is now the [old] city park, originally donated to Elkhorn by George Crawford. The school consisted of only 10 grades until 1914. After a new wing was added, it gave Elkhorn a twelve grade accredited high school. The first graduates of the class of 1916 were: Marie Goodhard Witt, Earl Goodhard, Ralph Kuehl, Fred Meyer and Edwin Quinn.

In 1930, a \$60,000 school building was erected on the south edge of the current school property In 1951 a building consisting of two classrooms, gymnasium and stage was added. This building housed the school's first cafeteria. In the 1960's lunch cost \$.25. [Lunch currently costs \$1.55.]

To most people that have lived in the community since 1967, one of the most obvious changes to Elkhorn has been its growth. The place where we students see change in our community is when we see change in our schools. Even though we are only in

eighth grade, those of us that attended Westridge Elementary saw plans for change with the addition of the gym. When we arrived at the middle school we saw the addition of a new eating area, and when we go to high school next year we will be the first ones to enjoy the new additions there. We are truly the benefactors of being the "Class of 2000."

Although we see changes, it was a response from Carl White, past school superintendent, that caught our attention in respect to changes within our school. He stated that in 1967 there were 651 students — TOTAL — in the whole district. According to a brochure given to us by our current superintendent, Dr. Breed, there are almost that many in just the middle school (1996 enrollment indicates 569). Besides number changes, the most noticeable change has been in the actual construction of new buildings. Dan Stoller remembers (when he was in fifth grade) that in 1967 Westridge was the only elementary school in town. It was in that fall, that the first phase of the current middle school, was opened as a 7-12 facility. The football field and track were located south of the present facility on the outfield portion of the baseball field known as Antler Field.



1930's building housed grades 1-12. Currently used as an administration building.

Photo by Bob Thompson

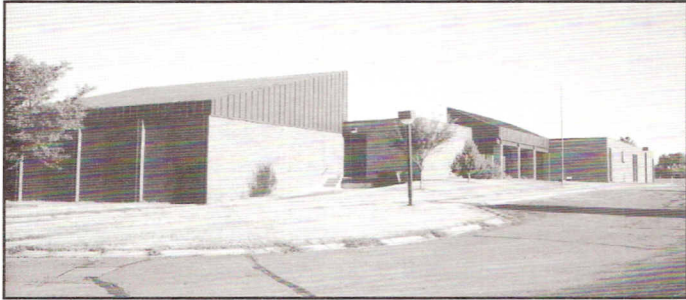
Both Skyline Elementary and Hillrise Elementary (costing \$1,300,000 and \$1,500,000 respectively) opened in 1975 and the present high school opened in 1981. Additions were made to Westridge which cost \$1.65 million in 1994. It is interesting when you compare that amount to the cost of the initial construction in 1961 which cost the taxpayers only \$340,000. The plans to add onto the high school are estimated to be

around \$10,000,000. But besides the increase in numbers and actual buildings, Carl White indicated that he had noted other changes. He said, "Parents accepted the disciplining of their children and reinforced it at home. There was more support for the school then." Dan Stoller noted the addition of sports, saying that it was in the late 1960's that wrestling was added as a school sport.



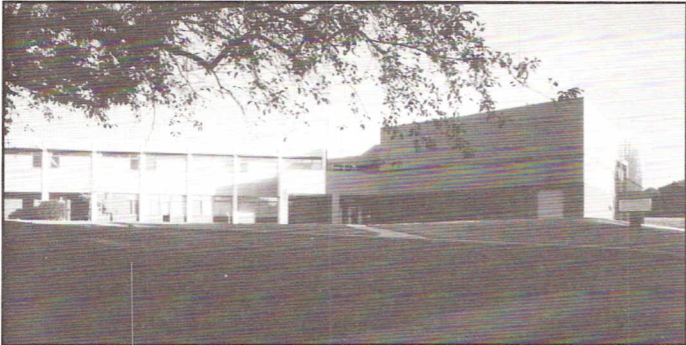
Hillrise Elementary School

Photo by Bob Thompsen



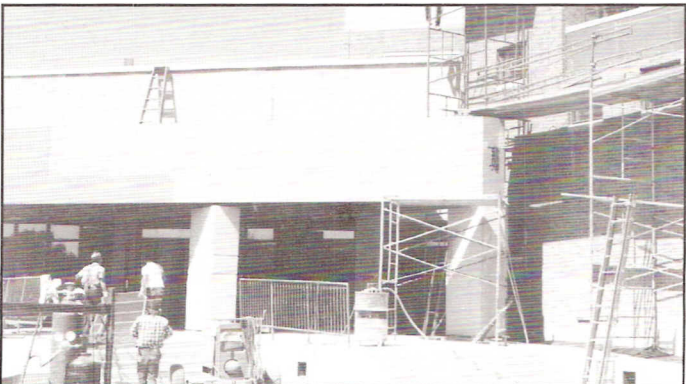
Skyline Elementary School

Photo by Bob Thompsen

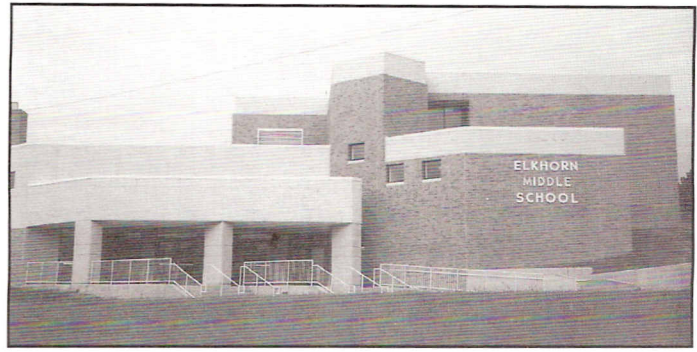


Westridge Elementary School

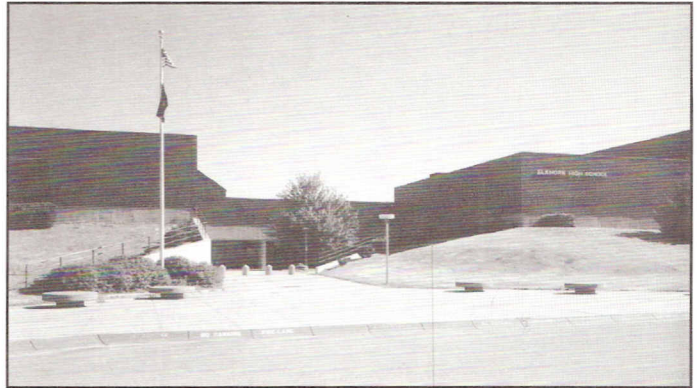
Photo by Bob Thompsen



Construction on the Middle School, 1994.



Jr.-Sr. High built in 1967 - later became Middle School in 1981.



Elkhorn High School

Photo by Bob Thompsen

Metro Tech was built in October 1980. There were 1,200 students there at that time. Right now there are 1,800. There are 600 classes offered at Metro, the main classes being: photography, graphic arts, and computer programming. The average age of students attending Metro is 31. Elkhorn was chosen as the Metro location because of the fact that it was the best location at an affordable price. The worst thing that has happened to the building was when lightning struck the building and knocked out the power. The best thing is the fact that the Elkhorn Valley Campus has enabled citizens from rural Douglas and Sarpy Counties to access a convenient location.
(Information from Joseph Distefano.)



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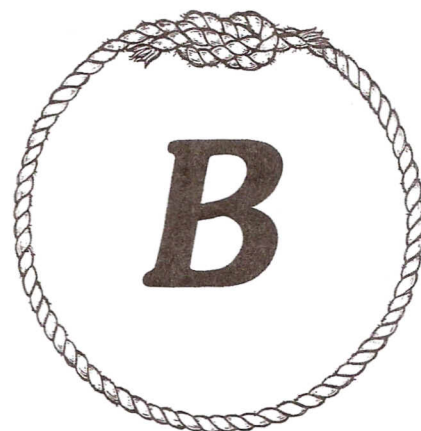
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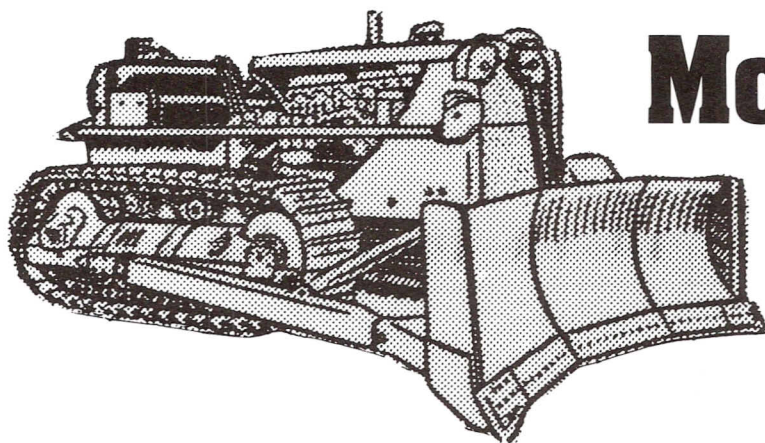
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Chapter 4

Things that keep us going — Food, Car Gas, and Good Looking Hair

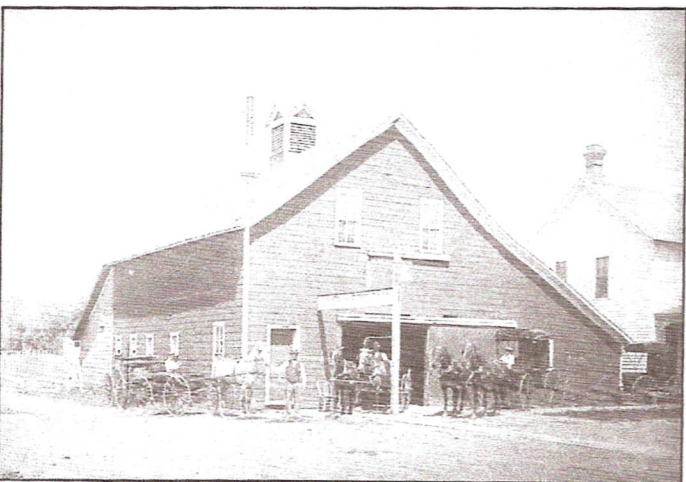
Research completed by: Sean Healion, Jessica Meer, Kirk Hanson, Josh Ladehoff, Bryan Wegman, Josh Shanahan, Amanda Therkildson, and Brian McGuire.

Although initially the above category may look like a rather odd combination of businesses, there is some twisted logic to the above grouping. What brought people to Elkhorn in the 1860's was the Union Pacific Railroad. What brings people to Elkhorn today are automobiles. And every teenager knows if you have a car you need gas. Plus the other two basic needs of teenagers are food and good looking hair.

In the late 1800's people pulled up to the Fry Hotel and the Zimmerman — later Fry Livery and Feed Barn — located on Railroad Street. In 1995, for people to get their vehicles gassed, there are five options. One can go to Frank's, Christiansen's, Texaco, Casey's and/or the Kwik Shop. Frank's Conoco was built in 1955 and Christiansen's 66 was built in 1965 — previously a Mobile station. Casey's was built in 1979.



Fry Hotel



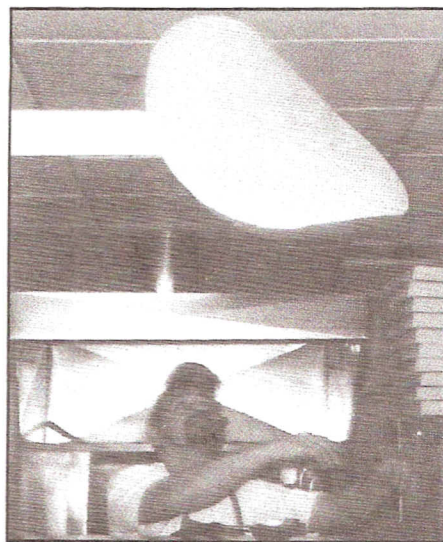
Livery

In the 1800's the only option for food was the local hotel. Now there are numerous options — the majority opening since 1967.

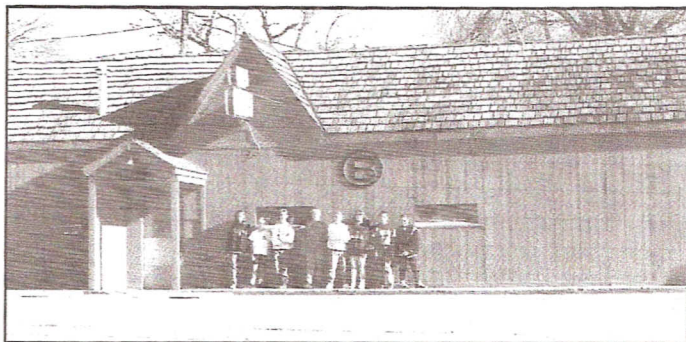
Arby's, Subway, Don Carmelo's, and the Great Wall have all opened in the last two years.

The Circle B is the only eating

establishment that was open in 1967, that is still open, although the bowling alley has served food since its opening in the 1960's.



Flipping Pizza at Don Carmelo's.

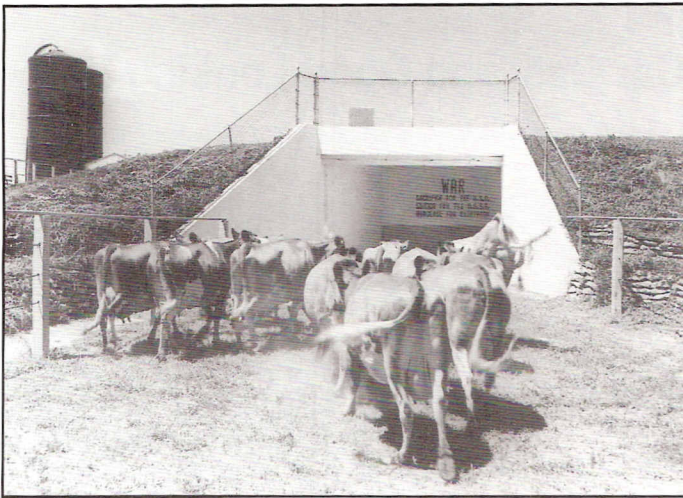


Circle B

Circle B, operated by Bonnie Bull, has been in town since 1959. It changed its name from "B and W" to the Circle B in 1961. Godfather's is currently owned by Dan Peterson, who bought it six and a half years ago.

There is a story about a dog living at Arby's that gained national media attention about two years ago. Supposedly, the dog's name was Cornflake. People fed the dog over the years at the restaurant location until a sad day when Cornflake stumbled onto Highway 31 and was hit by a car. Cornflake is now buried behind Arby's and has a tombstone to commemorate his life and death.

Another interesting story about animals and food establishments has to do with Barry's Bar. Barry stated that the American Legion used the "underground for



Cows tested in 1963 at what is now Barry's Underground.

about five years. Prior to that Roberts Dairy operated a barn in the area around Barry's. In 1962, Roberts Dairy started testing the effect that a bomb shelter atmosphere would have on cattle. Students from the University of Agriculture stayed with the cows also. Supposedly the shelter could house up to 250 cows and bulls. The shelter cost \$35,000 to build. After a two week test in 1963, cows and people reportedly survived the experiment in good shape. The shelter is made with nine inch steel reinforced concrete.

Of course a summertime favorite is Richard Moffet's Dairy Chef. It previously was owned by Robert Attebery. In addition, there is nothing better than a donut from Daylight Donut, operated by Sue Hardisty.



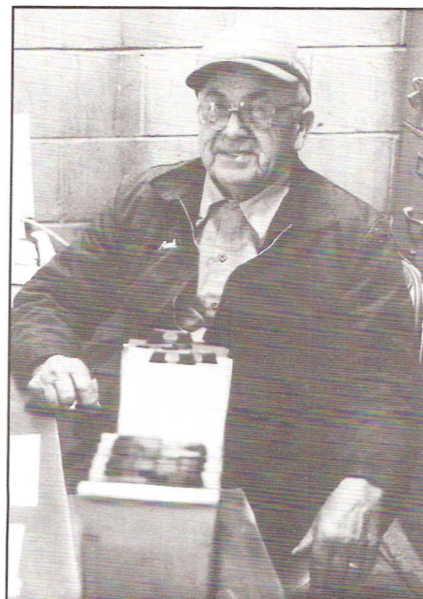
Sue Hardisty, owner of Daylight Donuts, greets Chip Kinder. Kinder's parents are the previous owners of the business.

Photo by Tracy Cambron

We currently are aware of four businesses that care for people's hair: Tiffany's, Hair Care Professionals, Paula's Family Hair Care, and Byron's. Byron has definitely been here the longest. In response to our questions, he stated that he started his business in 1963. He has over 300 customers. Before he was there his shop was for horses. Tiffany wrote that she started in 1973 in the old downtown jail and city hall. She moved to a new location in August 1994.



Lee Hanten at Byron's.



Frank Roza sits in his office in Frank's Service. Roza has owned the business since 1955, when the population of Elkhorn was 450. Frank's Service is the longest running business in Elkhorn. Roza is also a long-time member of the Elkhorn Volunteer Fire Department.

Photo by Tracy Cambron

Arby's of Elkhorn



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Chapter 5

Housing Developments

Research completed by: Lauren Clark, Robert Atkins, John Baer, Ryan Wright, Beau Bump, Corey McKenna, Melissa Willette, and Johnlouis Sari.

In 1967, when Elkhorn celebrated its 100th birthday, Elkhorn's city limits were basically between Maple Street on the north, and a few streets south of the railroad line on the south. Today, with the recent annexation of the Chapel Hill and Skyline additions, Elkhorn reaches about two miles south of the 1967 southern boundary. The annexation of these two additions though did not come without some controversy. In fact, some residents in Chapel Hill were so upset with the thought of annexation that they took their case clear to the Nebraska Supreme Court. The issues varied, but it basically came down to services and tax dollars. Some wanted to go with a possible Omaha annexation, some wanted to go with Elkhorn.

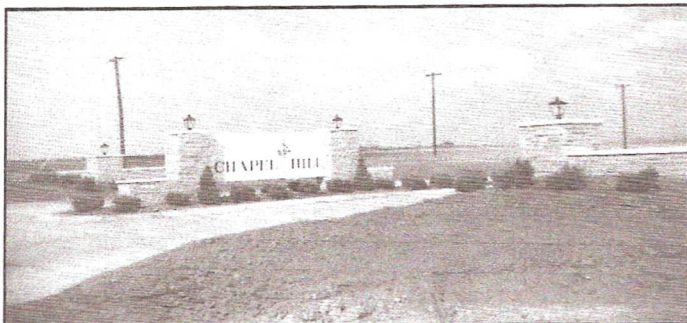
Although the majority of the following subdivisions are not within the Elkhorn city limits, they do affect the Elkhorn community; thus the reason we have included them.

The Ridges: (Originally 650 units) Is being developed by John Allen of HOME Realty and Ridges Limited Partnership. This Housing Development surrounds a private 18 hole golf course.

Arbor Ridge: Bob Gottsch platted this development in 1993. It has 155 lots and is currently being developed by Gottsch Enterprises.

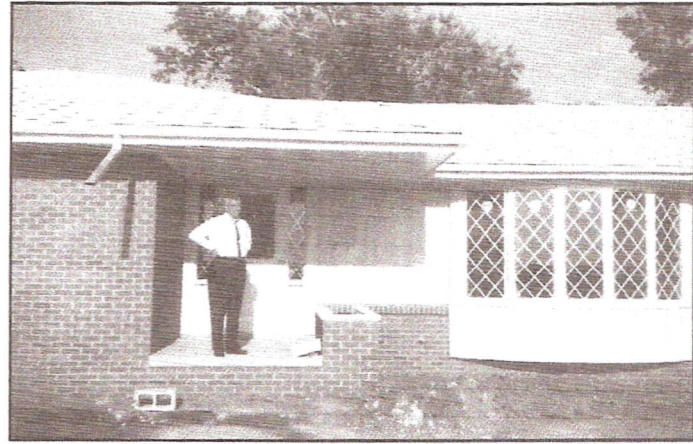
Antler Country: This development is also on Bob Gottsch's land. It was platted in 1975 and has an even 100 lots. New construction has ceased.

Chapel Hill and Skyline Ranches came to the Elkhorn area with a rather lengthy and interesting story. John Rogers informed us that his father, Frank Rogers, at one time had owned all the land now occupied by both housing subdivisions. He had purchased it from Henry Busekist and Gus Matschuk.



Entrance sign of Chapel Hill located at Skyline Drive and Leavenworth Street, 1960.

Frank Rogers platted the area (projected to be Chapel Hill) in 1960. The original map shows 542 lots. The first house built was a one-story ranch and was located at the corner of Leavenworth and 218th St., adjacent to the park and pumping station. It was called "The Orient." Although 16,000 people went through the house on the first day it opened, there were only two call-backs. "The Orient" was later sold for \$37,500.



Frank Rogers on the porch of the first house built in Chapel Hill, "The Orient." The home sold for \$37,500 in 1960.

Frank didn't get the growth he expected because of poor water systems and the fact that Elkhorn was considered pretty far west of Omaha. He then had to sell some of the land to Lloyd Thorton. Lloyd platted Skyline Ranches in 1967. It originally had 200 lots. Finally, with the building of Westroads Mall in 1972, Frank and Lloyd got the growth they wanted.

With the success of Chapel Hill, Frank Rogers, with the help of Pat Hageroad, developed Riverside Hills and Rogers Ridge. Riverside Hills was platted in 1974 and consisted of 50 lots. Rogers Ridge was platted in the following year and offered 78 lots.

These men, especially Frank Rogers, played a major part in the growth and development of Elkhorn. Without their contributions, Chapel Hill might still consist of just one house.

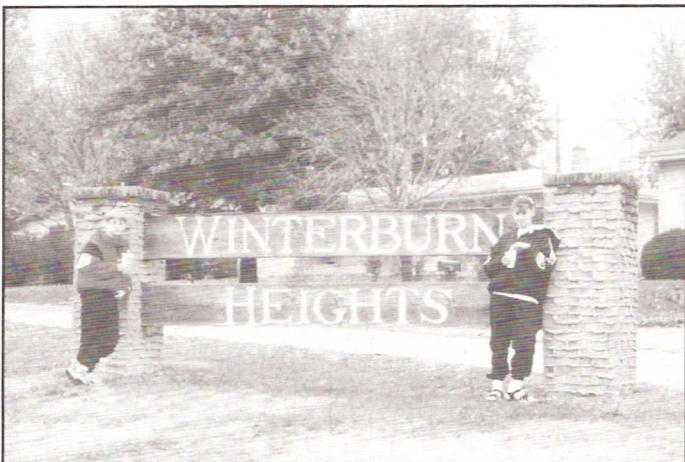
Greenbriar: This development was platted in 1960 by Frank Krecji. It originally boasted 160 lots out of 270 acres. It is not annexed by the City of Elkhorn at this point, and it doesn't want to be.

Ramblewood: This development was started by Charles and Nellie Smith in 1972. The platting took place the same year with 496 lots. It was started as a



Corey McKenna and Zack Packett in front of development started in the 1970's.

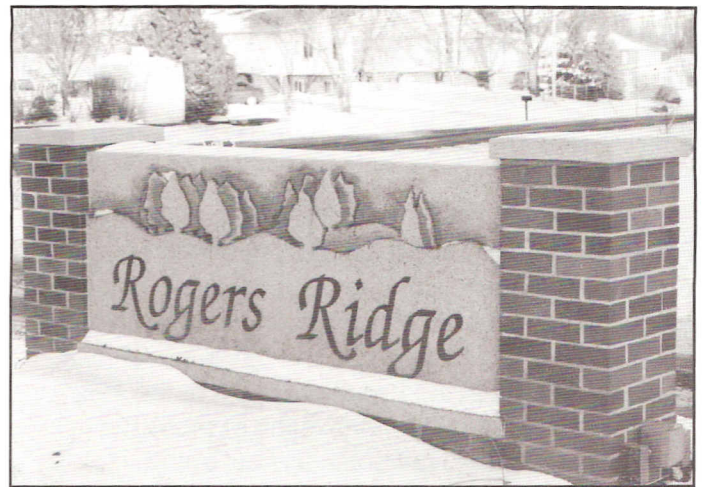
federal housing program. Little money was required as a down payment. It was hoped that this would encourage home ownership. It still is not a part of Elkhorn, but the mayor, Phil Klein, informed us that it would be soon. Ramblewood is now being developed by American Dream Homes.



Beau Bump and Lauren Clark in front of development sign. Housing construction started in the 1960's.

Fair Meadows: This development was platted in 1974 by MBC Construction. It consisted of 155 lots and was headed by Ronald W. Hunter. The City of Elkhorn provides water treatment and electricity for Fair Meadows.

New Developments: Spring Ridge (352 units) is just being started by Ridges Limited Partnership (Tim McReynolds and Cheryl Rennels). Pacific Spring (186 units) is just being started by Dave Lanoha. Celebrity Homes is preparing the Hillrise area for 90 new homes beginning next spring.



Rogers Ridge - part of the development started by Frank Rogers in the 1960's.

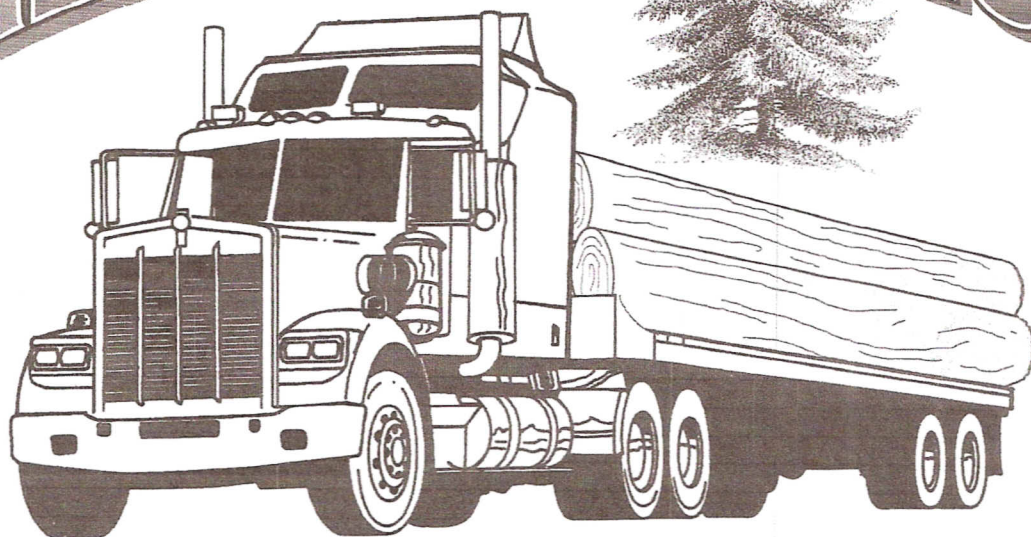


Current entrance to Chapel Hill, January 1996.



Along Veterans Drive, newly built townhomes are up for sale. The growth of Elkhorn has required the construction of many homes around Elkhorn. Photo by Scott Corner

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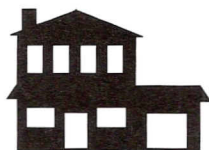
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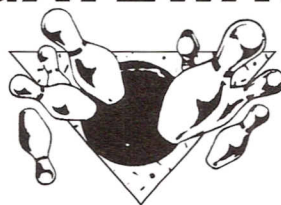
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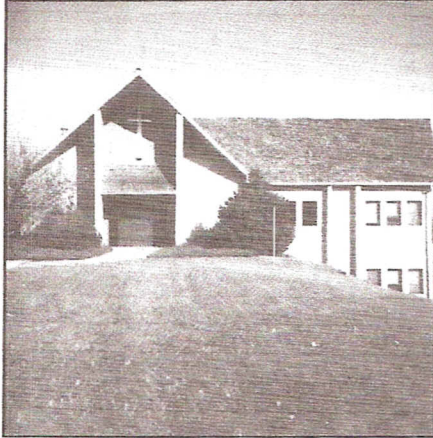
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Chapter 6 Churches

Research completed by: Jennifer Fellman, Sarah Kovar, Brian Fast, Megan Garside, Julianne Rodgers, Matt Schmidt, Scott Voss, and Andrea Roe. Article written by Sarah Kovar.

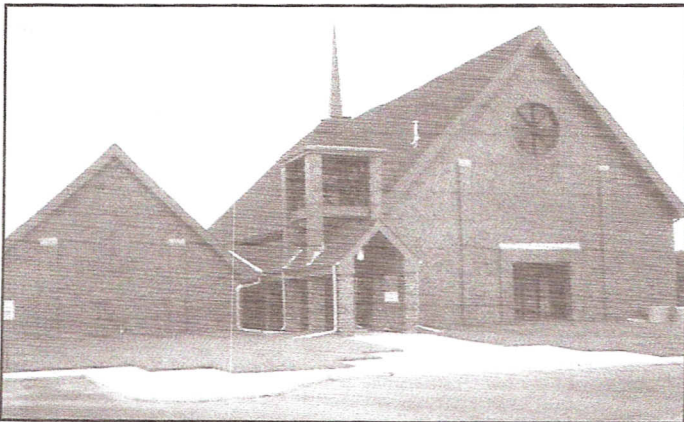
By 1967 there were only three churches in the Elkhorn area: Our Saviour's Baptist Church, Bethany Lutheran Church, and Elkhorn St. Patrick Catholic Church. There are now (1996) a total of nine churches in the Elkhorn area.



Lord of Life was constructed in the early 1980's.

daughter congregation of King of Kings. In 1980 that proposal was approved. The first worship service was held in a portable classroom near Skyline Elementary School during that same year. In 1982 the church was named Lord of Life and then brought into the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Also in 1982 the current building was constructed at 20844 Bonanza Blvd. The pastor is currently Pastor David Linkugel and there are 240 members.

The Lord of Life Lutheran Missouri Synod Church began in 1979 when the Lutheran Layman met with Pastor David Schmidt and President Wayne Gland of King of Kings Lutheran Church of Omaha, NE. They proposed to build a church that would be a



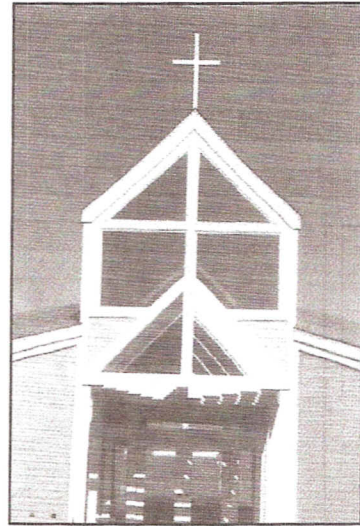
Peace Presbyterian Church constructed in 1989.

The Peace Presbyterian Church in Waterloo, Nebraska, began in 1879. The Elkhorn Peace Presbyterian Church is a continuation of the one in Waterloo,

Nebraska. It was constructed in 1989. The pastor is currently Dr. Kenneth J. Bunnell and there are 325 members.

In 1965 Our Saviour's Baptist Church organized four families from the area and began worship in the basement of a home. In 1967 they built a combination parsonage/chapel at 809 Mary St. Four years later in 1971 Our Savior's Baptist Church bought land at 809 Hopper St. Their present church is built there. An addition was made to the church in 1978. This year the church is now debt-free and were able to burn their mortgage. The current minister is Ralph C. Miller and there are 75 active members.

In 1984 the United Methodist Church started meeting in a former Realtor's building on West Dodge Road. The ground breaking services for the current church were held in 1987. In 1990 an education wing was added to the church. The pastor is currently Pastor Bill Ritter and there are about 450 adult members.



Elkhorn Hills United Methodist Church.

The Elkhorn Community Church started in 1992. They have been meeting in the cafe-torium up until a few months ago. They are now meeting in what was previously Elkhorn's Racquetball Court. Before it was a racquetball court, it was a dairy barn for Roberts Dairy. Before that it was a chicken barn for Omar Bakery. Their current pastor is Pastor Billy Huber and they have approximately 80 members.



Mount Michael Abbey — Benedictine Order.

Mount Michael Abbey was built in 1956 and 1957. The Priory building was built in 1960 and the Abbey building was built in 1964. Abbot Raphael Walsh was traveling around the country to build a church. He came across a piece of land in Elkhorn, Nebraska. Abbot Raphael was appointed the first Abbot of Mount Michael.



St. Augustine Episcopal was started in the 1980's.

On October 5, 1980, the first service for the St. Augustine Episcopal Church was conducted at the Nebraska State Savings & Loan Building in Elkhorn. The services were later moved to Hillrise Elementary School, November 16, 1980, in Elkhorn. A church school opened a little later. In 1981 their present property was purchased (208 Rawhide Road). The church was named after St. Augustine of Canterbury



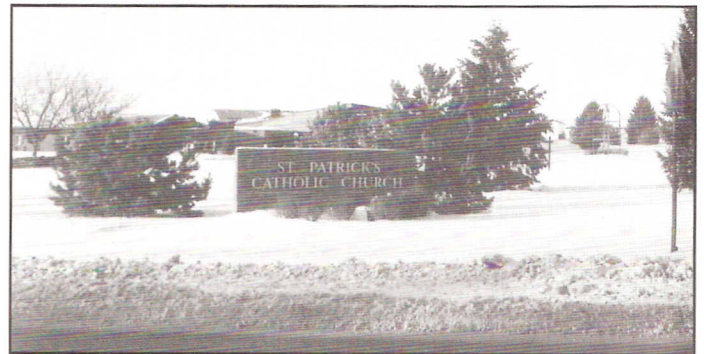
This building was previously a Methodist Church and later the home of Bethany Lutheran 'til 1955.

who established a church in England in 597 A.D. The Episcopal church in the U.S.A. was established in 1789. Elkhorn's church is a member of this communion. The St. Augustine Episcopal Church of Elkhorn is a barn made into a church. In 1983 the first Living Nativity Pageant performed at Christmastime. It is now a tradition at St. Augustine Episcopal Church.



Currently under construction — Bethany Lutheran.

The Bethany Lutheran Church began in 1921. At that time, services were conducted in the Knights of Pythias Hall. In 1925 the congregation incorporated, and purchased the Methodist Church on North Main Street for one thousand dollars. Then in 1955 a new church was constructed. Bethany Lutheran Church is currently constructing a new church and there are 1,400 baptized members.



Sign in front of St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

The first year that records Elkhorn St. Patrick Catholic Church being at 311 Pacific Street is 1871. In 1872 it was partly destroyed by a tornado. The following year (1873) it was rebuilt. Then, in 1899, the church was destroyed by a fire. The next church building was built in 1900, and served as a mission church. The present church is located at 20500 Maple Road and was built in 1981.

Chapter 7 Medical

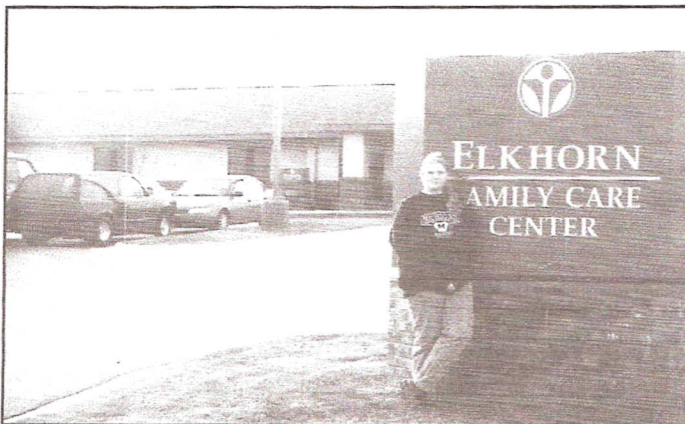
Research completed by: Tiffany Ulrich, Sara West, Shawna Hickson, Rachel Manske, Brenda Reasor, Jenelle Burke, Bregan Wherry, and Theresa Garlow.



Oldest medical facility still standing in Elkhorn. Currently it is a private residence.

History indicates that the first doctor in town was Dr. Howcroft in 1874. Later Caroline Holling mentioned Dr. T.N. Burke, arriving in Elkhorn around 1912. She wrote that Dr. Burke was beloved by all in the community. "His jovial nature often belied his devotion to the people - during a serious illness he would sit for hours at the bedside of a patient. Much credit must be given to him for the character and development of the village" Dr. Galloway (veterinarian from 1942 - 1985) shared that the brick building on the corner of Pacific and Madison was the first doctor's office that he remembers in town. That building served as the home of most of the Elkhorn doctors until the 1980's. Practicing in this structure were Dr. William Holden, Dr. John W. Tanner, and Dr. Gerald Reis.

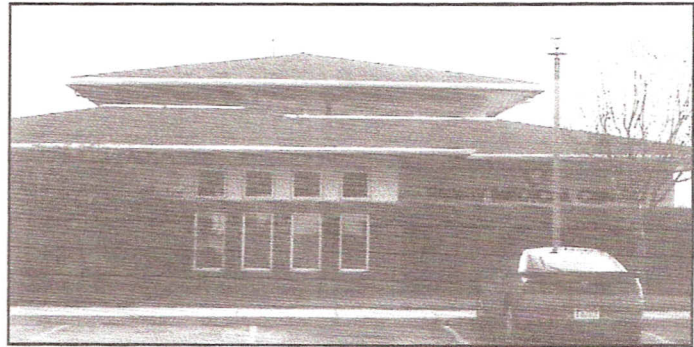
According to Dr. H.P. Galloway, Dr. Dale Dunn was the last practicing doctor to use the brick structure on Pacific. After Dr. Dunn there were a number of years in



Jenelle Burke stands in front of Family Care Center.

the 1970's when Elkhorn was without a doctor. People usually went into Omaha or saw Dr. Charles Marsh and later Dr. John Denker in Valley.

The number of doctors practicing in Elkhorn has increased in recent years. There are three clinics. At Elkhorn Family Care Center Dr. Scott Fasse is the practicing physician. Doug Stamp and Stephanie Burns are Physician Assistants also in practice with Dr. Fasse. At Skyline Medical Center, Dr. Wm. Fitzgibbons is the attending physician. At the Family Medical Center is Dr. John Lohrberg.



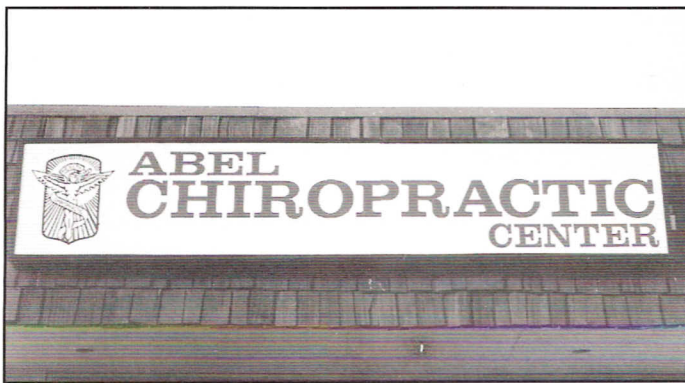
Family Medical Center.

There are also a number of other medical personnel in Elkhorn. Dr. Paul Wortman is a dentist. He also is part owner of a golf course and is currently president of the school board. Dr. Bernard Minarik came to town in the 1950's and Dr. Terry Packer came in the 1970's to practice dentistry. Dr. Dennis D. Weiss is currently the only orthodontist in town.



The final moment has come. Junior Kirsten Harms just received some exciting news from Dr. Dennis Weiss. After one year and seven months of waiting, she finally got her braces off May 8, 1995.

Photo by Scottie Chilson



Abel Chiropractic Center.

Dr. James D. Abel owns a Chiropractic Center. Roland Kleeman is a physical therapist. Mr. Kleeman taught for a number of years before becoming a physical therapist and opening an office in Elkhorn just two years ago.

Christopher Fornoff, an optometrist, opened his office in 1982.



Dr. Darrell Eich operates on a dog at the Elkhorn Animal Hospital. The veterinarians specialize in caring for small dogs and cats.

Photo by Tracy Cambron

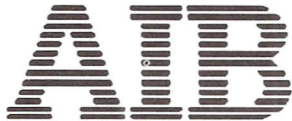
Although not attending the medical needs of Elkhorn citizens, there are a number of people that attempt to care for the pets and large farm animals. Dr. Galloway gave us this list of veterinarians. First there was Dr. Larson followed by Dr. L.H. Brown, and then Dr. Galloway in 1942. He also stated that Dr. Burton Smith was here for about 20 years—practicing primarily on horses at “Chance Ridge.” Dr. Darrell Eich and later Dr. Paul Dritley opened a clinic on Maple Street. They have been in the Elkhorn community since 1982.



Elkhorn Nursing Home.

Another aspect of our medical community is the Elkhorn Nursing Home. This facility cares for 130 clients. The facility was constructed in 1971. The current director is Tom Zelaney.

Dr. Galloway also pointed out a number of Elkhorn graduates have gone on to practice in some area of medicine. He listed the following: Chuck Jorgenson, John Carlson, Tom Loecker, Robert Galloway, Dr. Einspahr and Roger Holling. He also stated that one student that he knew of went into veterinary science and that was Mary Cihal.



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Chapter 8

Community Agencies and Supporters

Research completed by: Rebecca Mockelman, Kellie Strehle, Amy Sisney, Amber Ramsey, Reese Draemel, Dre Nervig, Josh Malesa, Lindsay Wiemer, and Jessie Ghiai.



Elkhorn Lions Club members Wilbur Bull, Arnold Fencel, Gloria Unruh, Leroy Barta, Gene French and Lee Salmans.

Lions Club:

The Lions Club has been in Elkhorn since 1966. They currently have 22 members and meet at 7 P.M., the second Monday of each month, at the Circle B Restaurant. Arnold Fencel is president. Although one of the main thrusts of the Lions Organizations has always been eyes, Elkhorn Lions Club has helped to raise money for two medical centers in Omaha for eye examining equipment. They also organize the local Easter egg hunt and support the Quest program at the Elkhorn Middle School.

The Chamber of Commerce:

The Chamber had its official beginnings in 1947 with the name of Valley Chamber of Commerce. President, Mac Young, informed us that at that time Valley was one of the larger towns in the area. For this reason Valley got top billing. In 1981 the name changed to Western Douglas County Chamber of Commerce. He stated the board is made up of two members from each of the four member towns — Valley, Bennington, Waterloo, and Elkhorn. Currently James Kopsa and



Malcolm Young, President, Western Douglas County Chamber of Commerce.

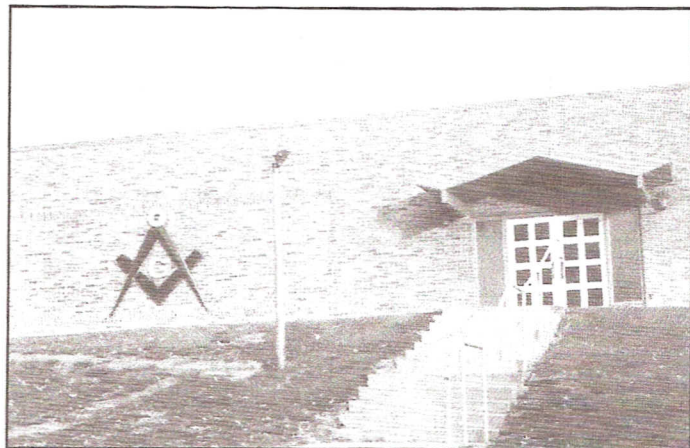
Bob Worley represent Elkhorn on the board. Mac indicated that there are currently 90 businessmen in the organization. They provide information to prospective businesses, developers, and families looking to move into the area. They also help in community service projects and with college scholarships.

Rotary:

The Rotary Club first began in 1990. They meet weekly on Thursdays at "Circle B" Restaurant. Currently there are 29 members in their local Western Douglas division. Their community services include two annual \$600 scholarships to two graduates of each Elkhorn, Valley, and Waterloo High Schools. They also participate in highway cleanups and work for our food banks. This year they donated money to the Heartland Hoedowners (which in the past was used toward the two libraries in Elkhorn and Waterloo).

Eagles:

Frank Roza stated that the Eagles started in Elkhorn in the early 1980's. Members must pay \$15 per year. There is also an initiation fee of \$10. They make most of their money from the "dinners" and room rentals. They have hamburger night on Tuesdays and then serve another meal on Fridays. They have over 400 members. Their purpose is to provide support to the community. Mr. Roza stated that they spearhead the cancer and heart drives and also support Boys' Ranch in western Nebraska.



Masonic Temple

Masons:

The Masons have a long history starting back to Revolutionary War days, and in fact stem from an organization of people that built (masons) cathedrals,

abbeys and castles, in England. Masonry evolved, using the old symbols and traditions of this craft. One of the brochures states that Masonry is an organization of men bound together with a philosophy of moral standards, mutual understanding, and a brotherhood in which all men are on the level and equal. This group meets regularly. "They are pledged to preserve the moral fiber and quality of life and to act in a spirit of helpfulness towards all mankind." (Taken from a brochure). Within this group is a women's organization (Eastern Star), a group for girls (Rainbow) and a young men's group (DeMolay). They support many projects but their main support in Nebraska goes to the children's homes in Fremont and Omaha and to college scholarships.

The Newspaper:

Although officially a business we also saw the *Douglas County Gazette* as one of those supportive agencies that helps communities "stick-together" because of their constant attempt to keep everyone informed.

In an ad in the **1967** Centennial book, the owners of the *Douglas County Gazette* wrote the following.

Records show that Elkhorn has had a local weekly newspaper for 81 years. In 1886 a paper called the *Elkhorn Boomer* was published. Then in 1887 the *Elkhorn Leader* was started and in 1891 the *Elkhorn Exchange* made its appearance. The Exchange was published until the early 1930's when it joined with the *Douglas County Gazette*.

Assuming the above is true, then Elkhorn has now had a weekly paper for over 109 years. Although currently printed in Blair, its publisher is Penny Overman.



Mrs. Caroline Holling is one of the few remaining charter members of the Elkhorn Women's Club. She also was a major contributor to the original 1967 Elkhorn Centennial Book.



Bird aviary donation by Women's Club of Elkhorn. From left to right: Tillie Frank, Ruth Germscheid, Tom Zelaney, Trudy Marriott.

GFWC Elkhorn Women's Club

Elkhorn Women's Club traces its roots from the Antlers Temple No. 34 Pythian Sisters to the Library Club. In 1936, the Library Club joined the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs (NFWC) - becoming the NFWC Elkhorn Women's Club.

The purpose of the club is women in service to the community and each other. Each year the Elkhorn club supports the library, gives a college scholarship, works to beautify the city, sponsors the Red Cross Bloodmobile, and supports various community projects. In addition, high school students are given a chance to participate in government through Girl's State Scholarships and Sophomore Pilgrimage. A music audition sponsored by the club provides an opportunity for a scholarship to Wayne State Music Camp.

The club motto, "Unity In Diversity," gives each woman freedom to use her individual talents and skills for the good of all.

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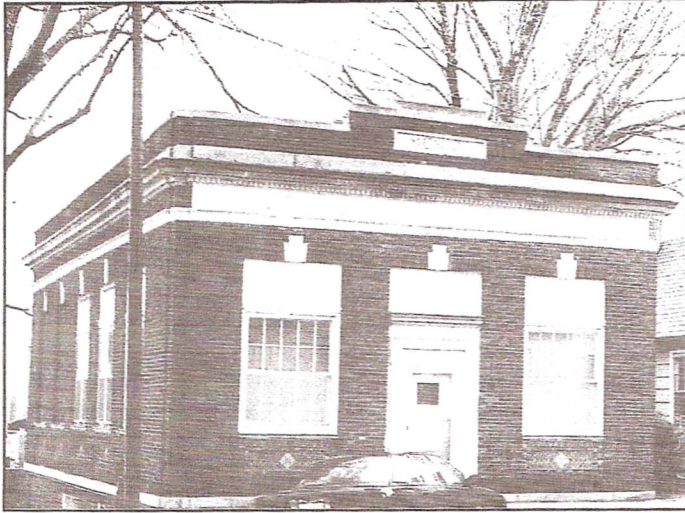
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Chapter 9

Financial Institutions

Research completed by: Sarah Benzel, Alice Schmidt, Drew Luebe, Jarod Zastrow, Amy Dritley, Paloma Soria, and Nick Malesa.

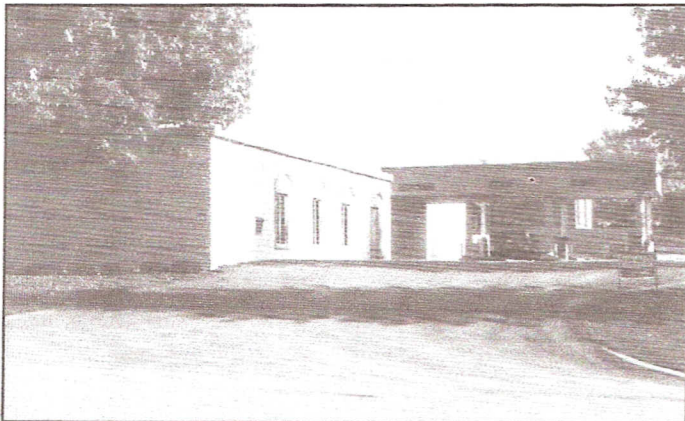


The red brick building of the State Bank of Elkhorn aligns the streets of downtown Elkhorn. In 1927 the bank was robbed and the president of the bank was shot and killed. Owner Bob Sample claims that a bullet is still lodged in one of the walls.

Photo by Chantel Glasshoff

In 1914, John Wyatt came to Elkhorn. He was president of the State Bank of Elkhorn, and active on both the school and the town board. Caroline Holling reported that it was a great loss to the community when he lost his life in an attempted robbery of the bank in 1927.

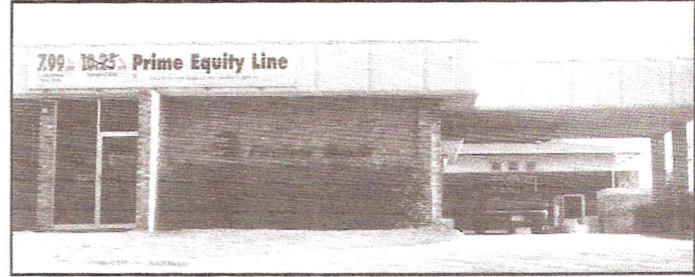
Luckily since that time the banks have experienced safer times. The State Bank of Elkhorn closed during the 1934 "Bank Holiday."



American Interstate Bank

American Interstate Bank (AIB), originally started as Farmers State Bank in 1915, has gone through a number of name changes and owners since 1967. The current building was constructed in 1967 but at that

time was known as The Bank of Elkhorn. It was later purchased in 1985 and called EquiBanc. The name has been changed to American Interstate Bank.

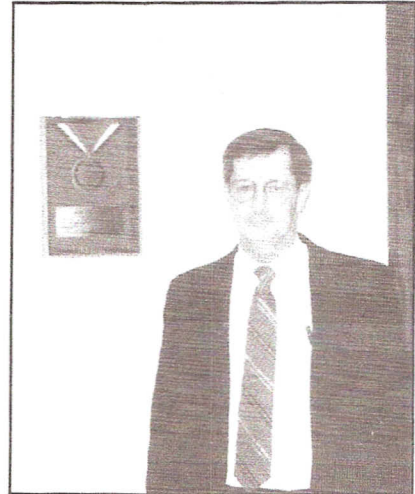


First Bank

From 1927-1977 First Bank was named Nebraska Savings and Loan. In the 1990's it supported all school activities and girls and boys sports teams, by sponsoring them, or giving donations.

Other financial institutions in Elkhorn are:

1. Robert Houchin, owner of State Farm Insurance at the Hillrise Center, has been in business since March 7, 1970. This business has supported many different foundations and charities. The building was built in August of 1978. Robert Houchin, the current owner, came in March of 1970. Mr. Houchin indicated that there had been previous owners of this insurance company.



Robert Houchin of State Farm Insurance.

2. Mr. Jack Andersen owns Skyline Insurance. It started in 1984.
3. Mr. Gene Kudlacek, runs Quality Business Services, an accounting firm. He has been in business for eight years. His establishment was built January 3, 1987. Gene and Connie have given Elkhorn excellent accounting and tax services.

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Chapter 10

Businesses

Research completed by: Katie Ringenberg, Josh Billingsly, Elizabeth Bartz, Stacy Bruno, Brooke Metschke, Dennis Lynch, Jared Van Anne, Justin Carey, Sheri Kalina, and Kristina Wulf.

In 1967, when Mrs. Holling compiled her book, the business section of town was and had been since the mid 1800's, primarily located on Main and Pacific Streets. Since that time the "heart" of Elkhorn is still there housing important business, but satellite business strip malls have popped up in several locations.

The Hillrise Addition was built in 1980.

The Western Hills Plaza which houses Ace Hardware was built in 1992.

The Ranches Skyline Plaza was built after 1967, and the most recent mini mall has been Gottsch's along Highway 31.



Skyline Strip Mall built in 1995.

The Chamber of Commerce indicated that there were 146 businesses in Elkhorn in 1995. That includes everything from trucking companies, to food establishments to medical facilities. In surveys that we mailed the majority of respondents indicated that they had



A typical day in the Hillrise Shopping Center where members of the Elkhorn Fire Department take time out to eat at Godfather's. The shopping center consists of about 12 businesses.

Photo by Kolleen Quinn

started their businesses since 1967. Obviously there are notable exceptions.

The Hayden's business, Dick's Hillrise Market, has been run by his family and himself for the past 43 years. That is a great accomplishment for his whole family. Previously Dick's Market was in Valley. Dick Hayden stated he came to Elkhorn because of good location, opportunity, nice people, and a good work force. He employs 55 people. He has been in Elkhorn since 1980.

Below are the businesses that responded to our question of why they built in Elkhorn:

Bill Grant from Wholesale Tires & Delivery stated he has been here since 1977. He said he moved here because of the honest people.

Dan Stoller opened his law practice in 1979. He wanted to practice law here because it was his home.

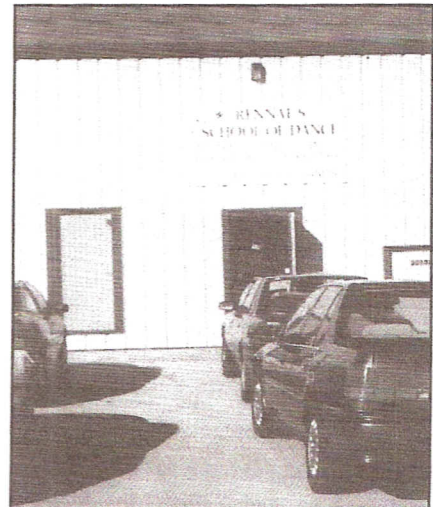
Richard Stehno from Glass Installation started his business in Elkhorn three and a half years ago (1992) because of the growth potential.

Rennae Bosco has been teaching dance since 1967, although her mother started the studio in 1971. She and her partner, Joan Worden, started it as a branch of their Omaha studio.

Dennis Hawks from Ace Hardware started his business 20 years ago. He chose Elkhorn for his business because he lived here.

Scoop McArdle of McArdle Grading has had his business here in Elkhorn since 1953. He now has around 35 employees. His business started out with only one bulldozer and he now has many other large earth-moving machines such as caterpillars.

Elkhorn has continued to grow because of location. The Lincoln Highway—the first ocean to ocean road—gave Elkhorn a boost in the early 1920's.



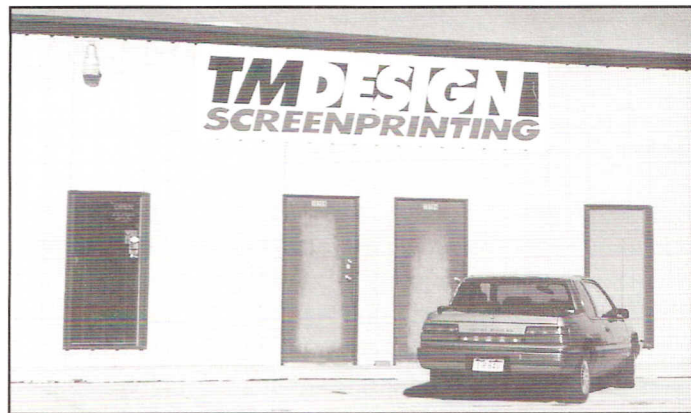


The Douglas County Board, on Oct. 21, 1975, passed a resolution preserving a section of the Lincoln Highway near Elkhorn.

In July of 1920 the bricks of the Lincoln Highway were placed all across the continent. It was made by workers who laid about 500 feet of brick a day (imagine how much faster and easier it is today). It took hard work and dedication to build this road and it is now known as an important monument.

In 1995 some people in charge of Elkhorn had an important decision to make. Will we leave the part that runs through town or tear them up and put them around a flagpole? The decision was made to tear up the "sacred" bricks. Because this stretch of brick paved road is one of the few miles left in America, controversy emerged. Obviously not enough, because in the fall of 1995, the bricks were torn up.

A few people in Elkhorn had some things to say about this huge decision. One person said that they are tearing up history that can never be replaced. Another said that it is crazy to tear up Elkhorn's only tourist attraction. We agree with these people. We think that they should have let the road be even if it would still be in Elkhorn—hopefully where people could appreciate its historic significance.



Children from Nan Fallon's Day Care in Elkhorn walk down Main Street for a field trip to Elkhorn Valley Pottery.

Photo by Scott Corner



Pam Hamburger, owner of the Elkhorn Valley Pottery, draws the attention of day care children while throwing a bowl on the wheel.

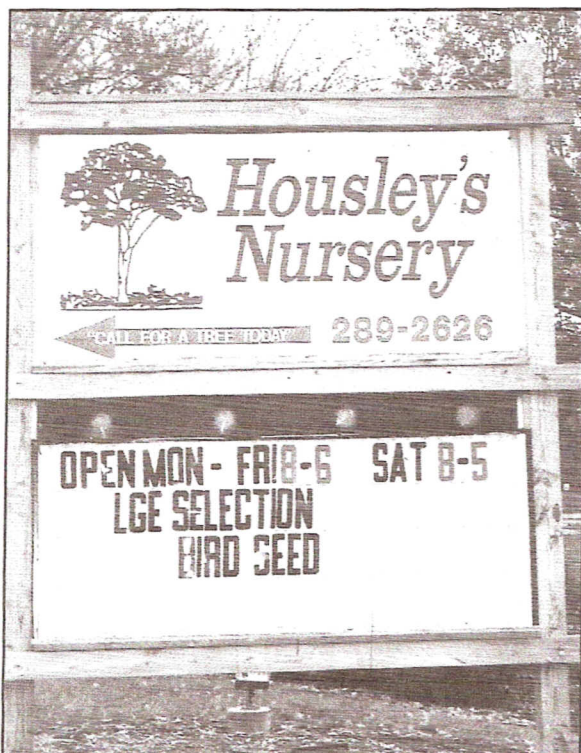
Photo by Penny Sander




The Whistle Stop Gift Shop — previously a gas station.



John Housley stands next to a truck bringing in new plants.
Photo by Tracy Cambron





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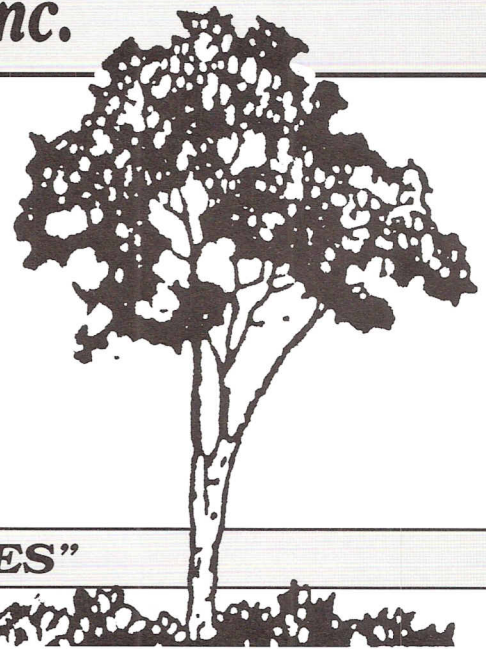
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Chapter 11

City Government

Research completed by: Jennifer Biscamp, Derrick Boring, Alyssa Breci, Miranda Campbell, Lee Hanten, Tim Hawver, Katie Hoffman, Catherine Jackson, Sara Jensen, Matthew Krakowski, Joshua Litton, Rebecca McFarland, Courtney Meisinger, Leslie Phillips, Rhonda Quinones, Justin Schmidt, Matthew Sharp, Jennifer Taylor, Nicole Uleman.

The Library:

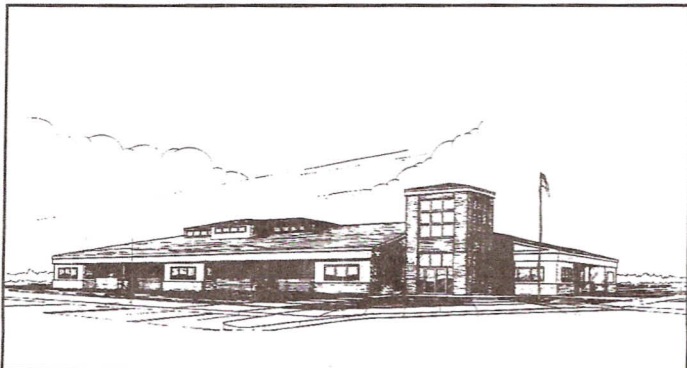


The Elkhorn Town Hall, Jail, and Library, still stands solid in downtown Elkhorn. Robert Gray, owner of the building, uses extra time in trying to restore the historical landmark.

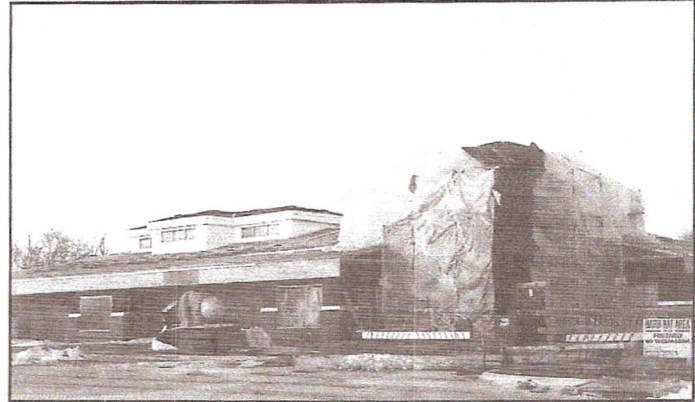
Photo by Chantel Glasshoff

"Early records show that Elkhorn had a library for one year in 1874. It contained 30 bound books and 200 dime novels, lent for a fee of 10 cents. There was no further mention of a library until February 15, 1925, when Antlers Temple No. 34 Pythian Sisters undertook to make a start. Mrs. Hattie Morrison served as the first librarian at 110 Main Street . . . The library was turned over to the Library Club which became affiliated in 1936 with the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs . . . and the ladies supplied their own cobs and coal for the heating stove. In 1966, the new Community Building was completed with a room for the library." (Information taken from the Centennial Book—1967.)

Now, in 1996, construction is under way for a brand new facility, located off Highway 31 on Cedar Street. It



Architect's drawing of new library.

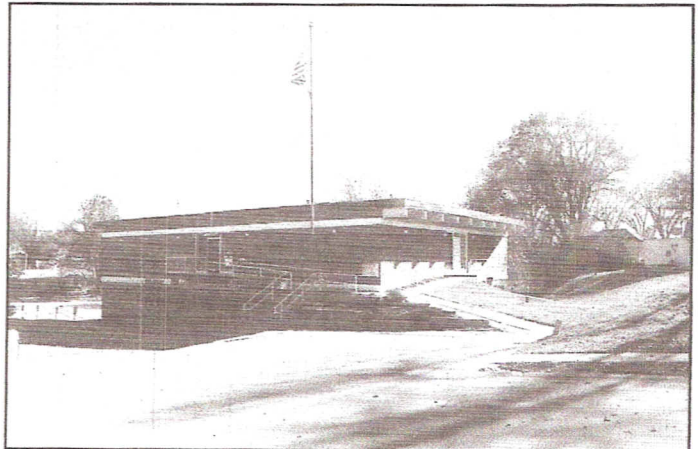


Elkhorn's new library under construction.

will be called the Bess Johnson Public Library and will have over 8,000 square feet and have access to Internet and CD Rom. Librarians since 1967 have been Mary Chapel, Maxine Lantry, and Becky Hollis. Wendy Anderson and Melissa Rosacker have been the librarians since 1987.

Government:

Elkhorn has a mayor-council form of government; five full-time policemen; a 35-man volunteer fire department with an insurance classification of seven within



Community and city building constructed in 1966.

corporate limits and a nine outside corporate limits. There is a city engineer. Current Board Members are: Frank Rosa, Jerry Bridges, Dave Trofholz, and John Waterman. The mayor is Phil Klein.

The issue that has most plagued the city of Elkhorn in the last two years is that of annexation. The city felt



City Council members and Mayor Phil Klein.

it needed to annex Chapel Hill and Skyline Ranches. Some people did not want to be annexed. The issue was fought so forcefully, that the decision to annex was taken to the Nebraska Supreme Court. Fortunately for the city of Elkhorn, they won. Elkhorn will soon annex Ramblewood.

Fire Department and Rescue Unit



Steve Swan, in truck, and Bob Watton, a new firefighter, service the #230 main pumper. The fire department has six fire trucks and two rescue squads.

*Photo by
Dr. Roger Breed,
superintendent of the
Elkhorn school district.*

According to the 1967 Centennial book, "the first fire equipment for the protection of the citizens of Elkhorn was a two-wheeled hand drawn chemical fire cart. The fire bell was mounted on the roof of the fire barn." The book then goes on to say that in 1910 there was a complete reorganization of the fire department. Members were fined 25 cents for missing a meeting. If you were absent three times, you were dismissed from the voluntary fire department. It was at this time that some

of Elkhorn's fire hydrants were installed. It was also noted that the greatest fire hazard was on the south part of town because of the railroad and the lumberyard. The water source was two tubular wells.

In 1966, the fire station was moved from Madison to Glenn Street. The department was housed in what is now the lower level of the Community/City building. The fire and rescue units were moved again in the 1980's to the area north of the water tower on Highway 31.

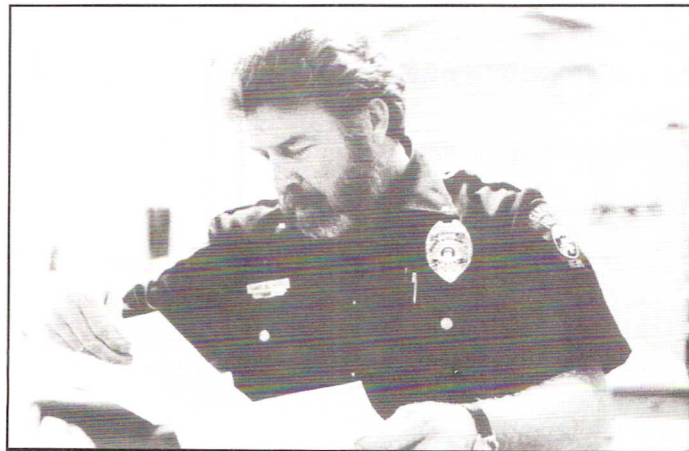
In the 1960's a rescue unit was added. There are currently two units available to the Elkhorn community.

Police Department:



Mollay Hollister, former Elkhorn police chief, with dog used in the "canine division."

Roy Scott is currently the police chief. Prior to his appointment, Mollay Hollister was the officer in charge. He was chosen as chief in 1964 and stayed in that position for over 20 years. Mollay Hollister reported that at one time he had a "canine division." He also reported that in the 60's his wife was the dispatcher. Before CB's the only way that she could notify her



Roy Scott, police chief, reviews paper work. He has numerous duties to fulfill throughout the day.

Photo by Allison Authier

husband that a call had come in was to turn the porch light on, then when he would cruise around Elkhorn, that would tell Mollay that he needed to come in the house and get a message. Then he stated they got C.B.'s and life of a police chief got easier.

Parks and Pool:



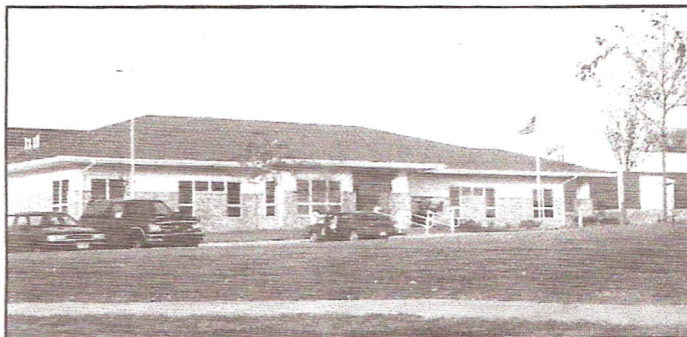
Students (from left to right) at the city park: Josh Litton, Derrick Boring, Tim Hawver, Justin Schmidt, Catherine Jackson, Katie Hoffman, Jennifer Biscamp, Jenny Taylor.



Rain prevents the use of the equipment in the park. Ta-ha-zouka Park was built in 1980. At that time, it was the second park in Elkhorn. The city park was closed a few years later.

Photo by Tracy Cambron

In the 1960's the only park kids had in Elkhorn was south across the railroad tracks on the road leading out to the housing unit called Greenbrier (located on the street called Park Street). Then in the 1970's land was purchased south and west of the current school site off of Center Street. The name Ta-ha-zouka was chosen because Elkhorn had originally been called that by the Indians. It means Elk's Horn. Not only was this recreational site developed, but the swimming pool was built in 1972. The mayor indicated that because of the growth in Elkhorn, that there has been discussions surrounding the need to make additions or changes to the pool.



New post office constructed in the 1990's.

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Chronology

The first school was a log building, probably built in the early 1850's on a hill southwest of Elkhorn.

- 1865 George Crawford and William Janney built a 1 1/2 story building—a hotel operated by M. J. Billiter.
- 1866 Union Pacific Railroad laid through Elkhorn in January.
- 1867 First post office established after Nebraska became a state, John N. Adams appointed postmaster.
- 1867 **George Crawford and H. O. Jones platted the town.**
- 1867 Mr. Crawford moved his small house from about where the depot stands to the northeast corner of Railroad Avenue and Pacific Streets. The building was used for general merchandise; an addition was used for grain storage, and as a schoolroom for two winters after the schoolhouse burned.
- 1868 The Capitol of Nebraska was moved from Omaha to Lincoln.
- 1868 Catholic Church erected; it burned the same year and was rebuilt in 1869. The new church was built on the present site in 1900 at 311 Pacific Street.
- 1869 Approximately \$400,000 in goods, grain, furs, and buffalo hides were shipped out of Elkhorn in one year. Wood for fuel and railroad ties was purchased by the railroad.
- 1869 A new one-room school was built south of the railroad tracks after the log school burned.
- 1869 Stagecoach line was operated by George Crawford between Elkhorn and Lincoln.



The open spot where Denker Hall once stood lies on Main Street. The hall burnt down in 1988, and used to provide the entertainment for Elkhorn. Lawrence Welk once performed there, and many dances took place in the hall.

Photo by Tracy Cambron



Viola Schuknecht, a longtime resident of Elkhorn, stands by her 50 years of Elkhorn High School The Antler yearbooks. She is the only resident of Elkhorn who owns every issue of The Antler which celebrated its 50th year of publication.

Photo by Chantel Glasshoff

- *1872 Elkhorn was incorporated. Population was 125. In 1875, this charter was relinquished due to "hard times."
- 1872 Parmalee, Sweezy and Crawford drove 2,000 head of cattle from New Mexico to Elkhorn which were sold to the government after fattening. They were given to the Indians in accordance with a treaty.
- 1872 Brickyard was started by George Crawford and Eli Johnson 1/2 mile west of the original depot. Later it was sold to A. Hollister and Mr. Linberger.
- 1872 Mr. Crawford published "The Elkhorn Independent" until 1876.
- 1872 Grasshoppers destroyed crops along the Elkhorn and Platte Rivers and west across the state, causing severe hardships to the settlers.
- 1873 Alyas Kelsey built a water power mill on the west bank of the Elkhorn River between the highway and the railroad bridge.
- 1874 Elkhorn established the first library, which went out of existence following the death of the organizer one year later.
- 1874 Parmalee and Sweezy erected an elevator on the hill on Railroad and Pacific Streets. It was sold to Cyrus Baldwin and Mr. Connalee who operated it until it was destroyed by fire in 1879.
- 1875 Flood in eastern Nebraska. Crops washed out along Elkhorn valley to within a few miles of Fremont.

Chronology (continued)

1876	Boardwalks were built for Elkhorn.	1904	Town Hall was erected by Alec McKenzie at a cost of \$1,055.00. Names on cornerstone: J. W. Housley, Henry Rasmus, Charles Witte, J. M. Bruner, C. C. Holling.
1876	Gus Kaessner opened a harness shop, which was later sold to Richard Suess, located at 126 Pacific Street. Mr. Suess moved the business to 222 Madison Street.	1904-05	Henry Mockelman purchased hardware store from William Koerner, now part of Staben's Grocery, 131 Pacific St., as of 1967.
1876	Mr. H. A. Nolte moved a building from Primrose, Nebr., to 101 Pacific St. to be used as a saloon.	1906	Double railroad track laid by Union Pacific Railroad through Elkhorn.
*1886	Official incorporation of the Village of Elkhorn. First Board of Trustees: H. A. Nolte, William Koerner, Dan Canon, and H. Bierbach.	1908	The Mickey Mill was built at 91 East Railroad Ave. It was later sold to Glenn Blackburn, who milled flour under the brand name, "Elko."
1886	Grove Hotel was operated by Mrs. Luitjen, built on northwest corner of Railroad Ave. and Pacific St.	1909	Water system was installed for domestic and public use.
1886	Four classroom school was built at the site of the Elkhorn Park.	1910	Population of Elkhorn was 291.
1887	Band organized—they played for many social affairs.	1913	Easter Sunday tornado.
1888	Metz Hall—saloon and hotel was built at 101 Pacific Street.	1914	Farmers State Bank was organized—chartered, March 1915.
1891	Jeffers and Goodhard published "Elkhorn Exchange."	1914	Elkhorn High School was extended from 10 to 12 grades.
1891	Drs. Richardson and Baldwin became proprietors of Elkhorn Drug Store.	1914	Nick Witt established Ford and Buick agency—auto repairs and livery.
1892	Fire Department purchased a chemical engine.	1915	Elevator on Main Street burned - operated by Chas Deerson and John Seefus.
1895	Fire destroyed the city block on west side of Main St. to Center St., and on west.	1916	Electric lights were installed.
1895	State Bank of Elkhorn chartered—J. M. Brunner, President; B. B. Baldwin, Cashier.	1916	John Butenschoen operated a dray line.
1897	Brick building on southwest corner of Main and Center Streets was built by Henry Meyer.	1920	The Lincoln Highway was paved with concrete base and brick through Elkhorn.
1902	Bierbach Saloon burned down. Present building erected 1903. 202 N. Main St.	1925	The Pythian Sisters organized the Elkhorn Library.
1902	Twelve gasoline streetlamps were installed, which were lighted each evening by a lamplighter. Four lamps were already in existence in the town. Before these a few kerosene lamps lighted the streets.	1925	Lutheran church was organized.
1903	Brick building on the northwest corner of Main and Center Streets was constructed by Henry Meyer.	1926	Fire siren was installed.
1904	Hopper Cement Block Factory in operation on Lot No.'s 6, 7, 8, Block 5, Jones Plat, which is the rear part of Holling Lumber. This building was still standing in 1967.	1927	Attempted robbery of State Bank of Elkhorn. President John Wyatt was shot and killed.
		1929	Elkhorn Library transferred from Pythian Sisters to Library Club.
		1930	School building was erected, 502 Glenn Street. Cost, \$68,000. Names on cornerstone: Otto Pfeiffer, T. N. Burke, M.D., John Claussen, E. A. Schurman, H. V. Miller, Henry Pfeiffer.
		1931	Natural Gas comes to Elkhorn in October.

Chronology (continued)

1934	Sewer system installed by W.P.A. Cost, \$27,500.	1974	Fair Meadows is platted.
1934	Four-lane Dodge Street highway project of 18 miles of concrete was completed. Cost, \$685,000.	1975	Skyline Elementary built. Hillrise Elementary built. Bob Gottsch plats "Antler Country." Douglas County Board passes resolution to preserve section of Lincoln Highway.
1936	Library Club becomes Elkhorn Women's Club of the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs.	1979	Lord of Life Lutheran Missouri Synod Church is started.
1939	High School Vocational Agricultural Building occupied. Cost, \$9,000.	1980	St. Augustine Episcopal Church has its first meeting. Metropolitan Community College built. Ta-ha-zouka Park built.
1950	School gymnasium constructed at cost of \$125,000.	1981	Current Catholic Church is built. New High School built.
1955	New Bethany Lutheran Church dedicated, September 11th. 832 No. State St.	1982	Skyline Golf Course built.
1957	United State Post Office building dedicated, 232 Main Street.	1983	Hillrise strip mall constructed.
1957	Holling Lumber Company built a new office and display room.	1984	United Methodist Church starts meeting at former Realtor's building.
1961	Grade School moved into new split level Elementary Building. Cost, \$340,000.	1987	Elkhorn Ridge Golf Course built.
1964	Four rooms added to Elementary Building. A Behlen building was put up to house four school busses.	1988	Denker Hall burnt down.
1964	A bowling alley was built which included facilities for archery, billiards, and a restaurant.	1989	Peace Presbyterian Church is built.
1965	The 1,000th telephone was installed in the Elkhorn exchange at the Daryll Eklund home in January.	1992	Western Hills Plaza was constructed.
1965	September—Farmers State Bank robbed. Mrs. Roma Widhalm and Mrs. Pat Roper were on duty. Mr. Elmer Peterson, Executive Vice President, was in his office. \$8,349 was taken. Robber has not been apprehended.	1993	New Post Office constructed.
1965	Change of Farmers State Bank name to Bank of Elkhorn, in March. Fiftieth anniversary of this bank. It was moved to new building at 701 Gateway Road.	1995	Gottsch's Skyline Strip Mall constructed. Skyline Ranches and Chapel Hill subdivisions are annexed. Addition to High School is started.
1966	Catholic Parochial School was built at the northwest corner of the intersection of Maple Street and Highway 31.		
1967	High School classrooms and gymnasium is to be completed for classes in the fall. It is located on the northwest portion of Elkhorn School property. Estimated cost, \$933,000.		
1971	Current building of Our Saviour's Baptist Church is constructed.		
1972	Elkhorn swimming pool built. Ramblewood development is started.		

The First Aeroplane Flight in Nebraska by a Nebraskan

Two miles north of Douglas County Road 64 on Douglas County Road 84 is a historical marker commemorating the first flight in Nebraska by a Nebraskan. From the field west of the marker, then a part of the Noyes farm, on November 17, 1910, Charles Baysdorfer, of Omaha, successfully flew an aeroplane built by himself and his brothers, Otto and Gus. He flew the plane several more times that day. Folks from all over the countryside flocked to the field to see him fly in the next three days. The marker was dedicated on August 5, 1990, with much ceremony and airplane flights.

By Bob Adwers

Adwers is very active with the Douglas County Historical Society.



Photos from the dedication in August, 1990.



Pacific Street



Old curtain hanging in Scoop McArdle's office during Elkhorn's 1967 Centennial celebration.



“The eighth grade (team 6) would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Caroline Holling. She was a wonderful person, who provided much of the information found in this book. She passed away while this book was being written. We owe her our deepest appreciation for giving us the historical foundation from which to build our book. She will be missed as that link that grounded us to Elkhorn’s past.”