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School Buildings

1890

Alfalfa Center - Dist. #114

Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier

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HISTORIC SITE FORM

State: Nebraska
County: Buffalo

Location (in miles & direction from nearest town):
Five miles west, one mile South of Kearney

Is this the original location? Yes

Name of building & origin of name: Alfalfa Center
An alfalfa mill is within 1 mile

Name & number of the district: Alfalfa Center 

Date built: 1890
Years in use: 1929

Who built it? A contractor or the community? Contractor

Does it look like it came from a plan book or was it designed by the community? Plan book

Names of former teachers:
Miss Conger, Fern Patterson, Vera Cunningham, Hazel Conger, Pearl Hanson, Mrs. Wiedman, Mrs. Cline, Mrs. Staley, Mrs. Nevin, Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Tempef, Mrs. Grundy, Mrs. Randolph, Mrs. Cerkid

Names of former students (family names only):
Holubech, Gibral, Hanke, Sheen, Bampford, Clelland, Baker, Sheen, Thatcher, Kennedy

Name & address of person in charge of building:
Archie Holubech Jr., Rt 2 Kearney

Who is the owner? School Dist
COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY HISTORIC SITE FORM

Architectural Features:

Size of building __ __ 36 x 36 __ __

Number of Windows (four pane, six pane, etc.) __ __ four pane __ __

Number of doors (entrances) __ __ 3 __ __

Number of classrooms __ __ 3 __ __

Bell tower or cupola __ __ no __ __

Materials used (wood, brick, stone, etc.) __ __ wood __ __

Type of roof __ __ Composition __ __

Outhouses __ __ none __ __

Playground Equipment __ __ merry-go-round, swings, baseball diamond, tennis court __ __

Color of building & trim __ __ White __ __

Coal shed or stable __ __ none __ __

Teacherage __ __ none __ __

Flagpole __ __ yes __ __

Other architectural features:

Anything left inside? __ __ Everything is inside __ __

Narrative Information: Did any special events happen at the school? What stories do people remember?

Community meetings have been held throughout the years.

Current condition & use: __ __ Good __ __

District records available: yes __ __ no __ __ where stored __ __

Black & white photo taken: yes __ __ no __ __

Old photos available: yes __ __ no __ __

Does the building have any state or national historic designation? __ __ no __ __

Name & address of surveyor __ __ Phyllis Grundy __ __ date __ __ Apr 10, 1980 __ __
Alfalfa Center Trivia

Alfalfa Center School has a rich history. It has been here a long time. The current building was completed about 1926. Charlie Cleland, Bonnie Ingrams' grandfather and Dave Gueck, Verda Tabers' father were some of the men who helped make that possible. There was a school here before 1926 but exact details now are sketchy.

There were 10 grades being taught here in those years. There is no way of knowing how many children have attended here, but the number has to be large.

Did you know that:

1. That Alfalfa Center derived its name from the "new" hay crop being planted here by a man named Watson who had the world's largest barn at 1733 way back when and hay was shipped from the railroad siding here.

2. Alfalfa Center alumni have been National Honor Society winners in high school and regent scholars at the University.

3. Alfalfa Center alumni from the last 25 years are doctors, researchers, veterinarians, engineers, contractors, farmers, ministers, teachers, debate coaches, good solid citizens.

4. Many of Kearney Highs best athletes have come from Alfalfa Center including all conference football, basketball choices and state track winners.

5. That all of our students generally score higher than the median average in proficiency tests.

6. That Alfalfa Center school district in land size is one of the smallest in Buffalo County.

7. In 1977, Alfalfa Center had 17 students.

8. This year per pupil cost to education our children is $1117.65.

9. That Kearney High charges Alfalfa Center $2500.00 per student to educate our 7th and 8th grade pupils and busing is in addition to that.

10. That the study made on Alfalfa Center for student enrollment said that we could have as high as 91 or as low as 25 in 1990. A lot of help for planning, huh?
Personnel at Alfalfa Center

Mrs. Phyllis Grundy
3417 Central Ave.
Kearney, Nebraska
Phone: 234-3164
Kindergarten Teacher 11 years at Alfalfa Center, 25 all total taught k-3 previously - Husband, Ernest, occupation College Professor, 2 grown children - tried to retire in 1978 agreed to come back for kindergarten and music ½ day.

RaNae Cernik
Rural Route 3
Kearney, Nebraska
Phone: 234-5188
1st - 3rd grades, 3rd year of teaching, 1 year at Bloomington, 2 at Alfalfa Center, St. Paul Nebraska, native, Kearney State College Graduate - Frank, husband works at Kizzier Chevrolet - married summer of 1980.

Lanna Randolph
3802 Ave. L
Kearney, Nebraska
Phone: 236-6940
4th - 6th grades, 13th year of teaching - elementary grades at Central City Nebraska, Minden Native, Kearney State College Graduate, graduate hours 18, 2 children - husband, Ray, is with family business Worley Monuments.

Judy Holoubeck
Route 2
Kearney, Nebraska
Phone: 237-5876
Food Technician 2 years experience, Pleasanton Nebraska native, attended Kearney State College, worked as secretary and at Bank, has own ceramic shop, 2 children - husband, Archie is a farmer, trucker.

Verda Taber
1116 5th Ave.
Kearney, Nebraska
Phone: 237-7831
Food Technician 30 years experience all at Alfalfa Center. Helped start Hot Lunch Program here. Attended Alfalfa Center as a girl. Longtime resident of neighborhood - 1 son Lloyd, who attended Alfalfa Center and is a veterinary at Neligh Nebraska. Husband, Jess is retired.
Archie Holoubeck, Jr.  
Route 2  
Kearney, Nebraska

School Board President, attended Alfalfa Center, Kearney High School, Kearney State College Graduate; Biology, self-employed farmer, trucker - 2 children at Alfalfa Center - wife, Judith Ann.

John B. Kennedy  
Route 2  
Kearney, Nebraska

School Board Secretary, Wyoming native, University of Wyoming Graduate with advanced degree in Special Education, works for ESU #10 in special education; 5 of his 6 children attended Alfalfa Center. One child married, rest in high school - wife, Bunny.

Lanny Ingram  
Route 2  
Kearney, Nebraska

School Board Treasurer, Kearney native, Kearney High School Graduate, works for Harding Interstate Glass - 3 children, 2 in high school, 1 at Alfalfa Center - wife, Bonnie who works at First National Bank and also attended Alfalfa Center.