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MISSOURI VALLEY
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Carnegie Libraries of Harrison County **MISSOURI VALLEY** *Public Library*

BY AARON HICKMAN • news@enterprisepub.com



Missouri Valley had a humble beginning in regards to its first library, which was in a room in the Commercial Building at 6th and Erie after the Public Library Association of Missouri Valley first met in 1871.

Just over a decade later, the city council elected to provide a room in the new city hall for a library. This room was directly behind the stalls where the fire department's horses were kept.

That iteration of the library served the public for

nearly 30 years before the first mention of receiving funding from Andrew Carnegie took place in February 1909, according to old library board meeting minutes.

Carnegie provided \$10,000, and an additional \$5,000 was committed by the community. A lot was purchased at 5th and Huron, and on Jan. 2, 1912, the new library was dedicated.

Today, the original library is still intact on the second floor of the building. For nearly a century, that's all there was to it until a renova-

tion and addition took place in 2004.

Made possible by a gift from Ruth and Hugh Tamisiea, this provided 7,035 square feet of new space to the original building, which was already 5,844 square feet.

This remodeling included additional reading areas and space for adult fiction and nonfiction, a large children's library with collections for both children and young adults, as well as a public meeting room on the lower level of the building.

Bruce Kocher, who has

COURTESY OF CARNEGIE LIBRARIES IN IOWA PROJECT

Black and white image showing the front exterior of the Missouri Valley Public Library. An American flag is also visible above the building. Note: This is the east side of the building today, or the left side when standing at the current main entrance.

Carnegie Libraries of Harrison County

PHOTOS BY AARON HICKMAN | MVTN

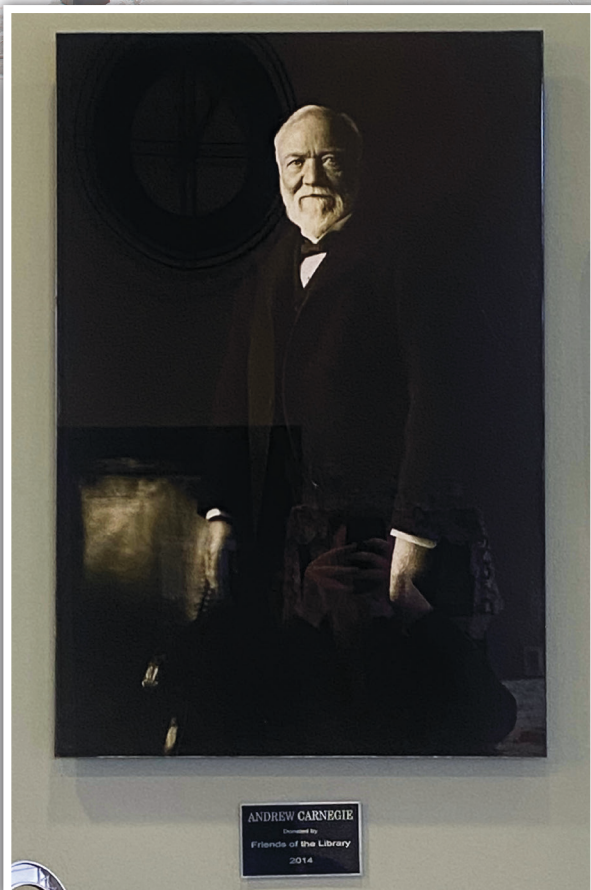
Below, the main entrance of the Missouri Valley Public Library today. At right, parts of the library's interior still have a classic look today, including these ionic chapters on the second floor.



served as the library's director since 2015, described Carnegie libraries as "landmarks in every town that has them."

"Day in and day out, people come in and remark at how beautiful the building is," Kocher said. "You go to other libraries way bigger than us and it's not as nice. I'm really fortunate to be able to work in a facility like this, and I'm also really fortunate to have a city council that supports the library."

Putting together various learning opportunities and programs to invite people into the library, Kocher said it is important to have members of



A portrait of Andrew Carnegie was donated by the Friends of the Library in 2014 after the original (as shown in Woodbine's section) was defaced.



A cozy corner is situated just to the right of the main entrance, with a collection of magazines to be selected from by readers.

Carnegie Libraries of Harrison County

the community feel comfortable within the walls of the building while also using the space for their various needs.

Some of the more educational programs are ones that Kocher is particularly proud of, specifically mentioning Brad Wilkening's presentation on the Holocaust earlier this year and a historian who dressed up like Ulysses S. Grant in a different presentation.

Most importantly, Kocher expressed his gratitude for the long history of community support for the library, starting all the way back with the initial Public Library Association up to now.

"Throughout the years, Missouri Valley has really supported the library," he said. "Our doors would not be open without the city's contribution, and that's true in libraries all around. If they gave the bare minimum, we wouldn't be able to function."



AARON HICKMAN
I MVTN
The children's library and its collections were part of the 2004 remodeling and additions. A small book nook with a rocking chair is situated outside of the frame.

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WOODBINE CARNEGIE *Public Library*

BY AARON HICKMAN • news@enterprisepub.com



The Woodbine Carnegie Library as it stands today. Note the unique Carnegie Library logo above the entrance on the left.

AARON HICKMAN | MVTN



COURTESY OF CARNEGIE LIBRARIES IN IOWA PROJECT
Black and white image showing the front and side exterior of the Woodbine Public Library, taken between 1908-1910.

The first of four Carnegie libraries in Harrison County, the Woodbine Carnegie Public Library was also the first library in the county overall.

First organized on Main Street in the town hall's jail section back in 1907, the city purchased a lot and a half a year later on the corner of Lombard and Vail Street, which is now 5th and Lincoln Way.

According to a report from the Iowa Library Quarterly in 1909, Andrew Carnegie responded to the efforts of interested parties from the area with a \$10,000 offer for the construction of a free public library. The library was officially dedicated on March 9, 1910.

Information provided by the library shows that an initial amount of around 3,000 books and 78 periodicals

and newspapers made up the library's inventory.

By 1913 there were 900 patrons registered with the library, which was open three days a week with the reading room in the basement open on Sundays.

Today, the library is open five days a week and offers over 19,000 books, 78 subscriptions to magazines and newspapers, 432 audio books, 577 videos and DVDs and many miscellaneous items, with 33 puzzles serving as an example. The number of patrons has grown to over 1,800.

Many historical features are also offered at the library. Outside there is a fountain given by the ladies of the Civic Improvement Club, which was dedicated in 1917, an honor roll of all residents who fought in World War I, a Statue of Liberty replica (known as the "Little Sister of Lady Liber-



The "Little Sister of Lady Liberty" was given to the library by the local Boy Scouts in 1950. There are currently fewer than 200 of these in the country.

Carnegie Libraries of Harrison County

ty”) given by the Boy Scouts in 1950 and a canon that was restored in 2001 by Jim Hawks.

Indoors there are items like the original oak circulation desk, the statue of the Goddess of the Cup, a bust of Abraham Lincoln, and two historical authentic letters written by Abraham Lincoln and James Garfield, respectively.

Fast forwarding to 1995, the time had come for more growth within the library. Needing to move the children’s library out of the basement, expand to provide space for the ever growing adult library and become handicapped accessible, various grants, businesses, alumni, organizations and donations helped complete the new addition in 2001, which added 2,272 square feet to the library.

Librarians who have served in Woodbine over the years were Maude Van Scoy (first librarian), Mrs. Belle True, Mrs. CL Beebe, Mrs. Ethel Elston, Mrs. Ruth Adams, Mrs. Connie Ball (library director), Mrs. Rose Bolie (children librarian), Mrs. Patricia Leytham (children librarian), Mrs. Wendy Doyel (children librarian) and Mrs. Ria Bantam (library director). At present, Diana Lind serves as the children’s librarian and Wendy Doyel serves as



A display honoring those from the area who served in World War I sits outside of the library. AARON HICKMAN | MVMT

the library director.

Serving as the director for the past couple of years, but working as the children’s librarian before that, Doyel has been a part of the library for over 17 years.

“If I could stay here for the rest of my

librarian career, that would be what I want,” she said. “To watch the library grow and implement new programs, that’s kind of a high point for me.”

Doyel said she sometimes reads through all the librarians who have gone through

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Carnegie Libraries of Harrison County

Woodbine, tracing from the very first in Van Scoy all the way to herself.

“You would think there would be dozens,” she said. “There actually isn’t really that many, and it feels kind of good to be a part of that. My name will be on that list of Woodbine Carnegie Library librarians for as long as the library stands.”

Noting that getting kids to love a library when they’re young so that love continues into adulthood is “what keeps a library alive and growing,” Doyel said the motivation for implementing various programs is to build that community within the library.

A focus has been placed on reaching out and partnering with organizations in the area, with Doyel specifically mentioning the Crew Center and eventually the new Willow Lake Na-

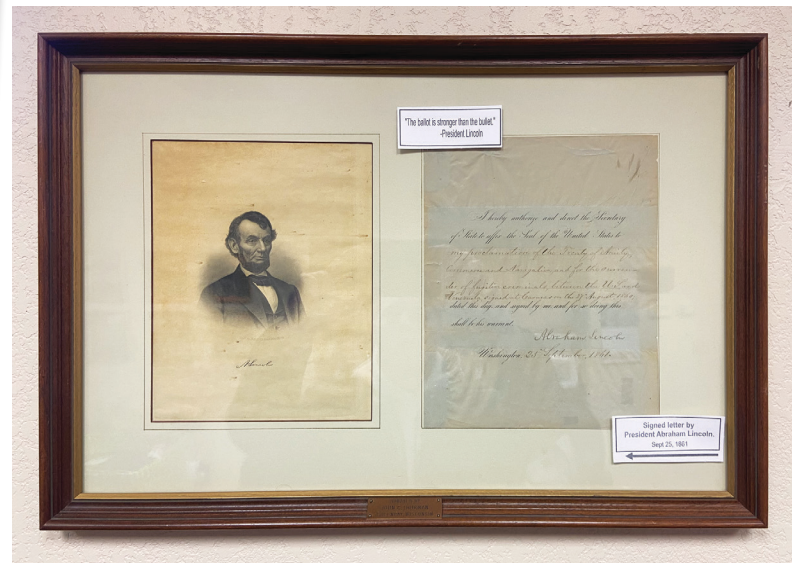


ture Center as great partnership opportunities.

“We’re not just an entity all on our own; we’re part of a bigger picture, a bigger community,” she said. “People need to realize that and know that we’re a part of that community. We need to touch all kinds of other businesses and organizations.”

AARON HICKMAN | MVTN

At left, a portrait of Andrew Carnegie was given to each library made possible by his contributions. The Woodbine Carnegie Public Library still has its original portrait hanging up. Below, an authentic letter written and signed by Abraham Lincoln is kept within the walls of the library. The library has a letter from James Garfield in its possession, as well.



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DUNLAP Public Library

BY AARON HICKMAN • news@enterprisepub.com

The lone Carnegie Library building of Harrison County that is no longer used as one today resides in Dunlap.

According to an article published in the Iowa Library Quarterly in 1906, a library in Dunlap was established through the efforts of the Fortnightly Club. A passage from the article reads:

“The Secretary of the Library Commission visited Dunlap November 19, addressing the Fortnightly Club that evening on behalf of the library which the Club has started. It is of interest to know that this flourishing Fortnightly Club has 110 members both men and women, and maintains active work in five departments, viz: Arts and Crafts, Nature Study, Emerson, Current Events and Child Study.”

This same article states that the club purchased about 600 volumes and a pleasant room had been provided through the interest of a Dr. Patterson, whose daughter, Miss Elizabeth Patterson, served as librarian.

Nearly five years later, on April 1, 1911, a special election was held on the question of accepting \$10,000 from the Carnegie Corporation for a public library. A large majority voted in favor of it, and about 1,200 volumes were turned over to the city.

Officially opening on Sept. 1, 1912, the library remained just that until late 2004, when a move was made from the 102 S 8th St. location. Dunlap Reporter archives from Oct. 28, 2004, show then librarian Paula Hess detailing the move into a new building.

“We are getting ready for



PHOTOS COURTESY OF
CARNEGIE LIBRARIES IN IOWA PROJECT

Black and white image showing the front and side exterior of the Dunlap Public Library in 1914.

the big move, which hopefully will happen the last week of this month,” Hess wrote. “Time just seems to fly by anymore. So many books and not enough hours in a day. We have been busy getting them all into the computer system which will make it very nice and easy to look up books rather than using a card file system... The library has three new gateway computers that are available for the public to use. Everything else keeps going up in cost but remember the public library is free.”

Today, the Dunlap Public Library stands on 102 S 10th St., and the old Carnegie Library building is home to the Word of Life Church.



The old Carnegie Library building is occupied by the Word of Life Church today.

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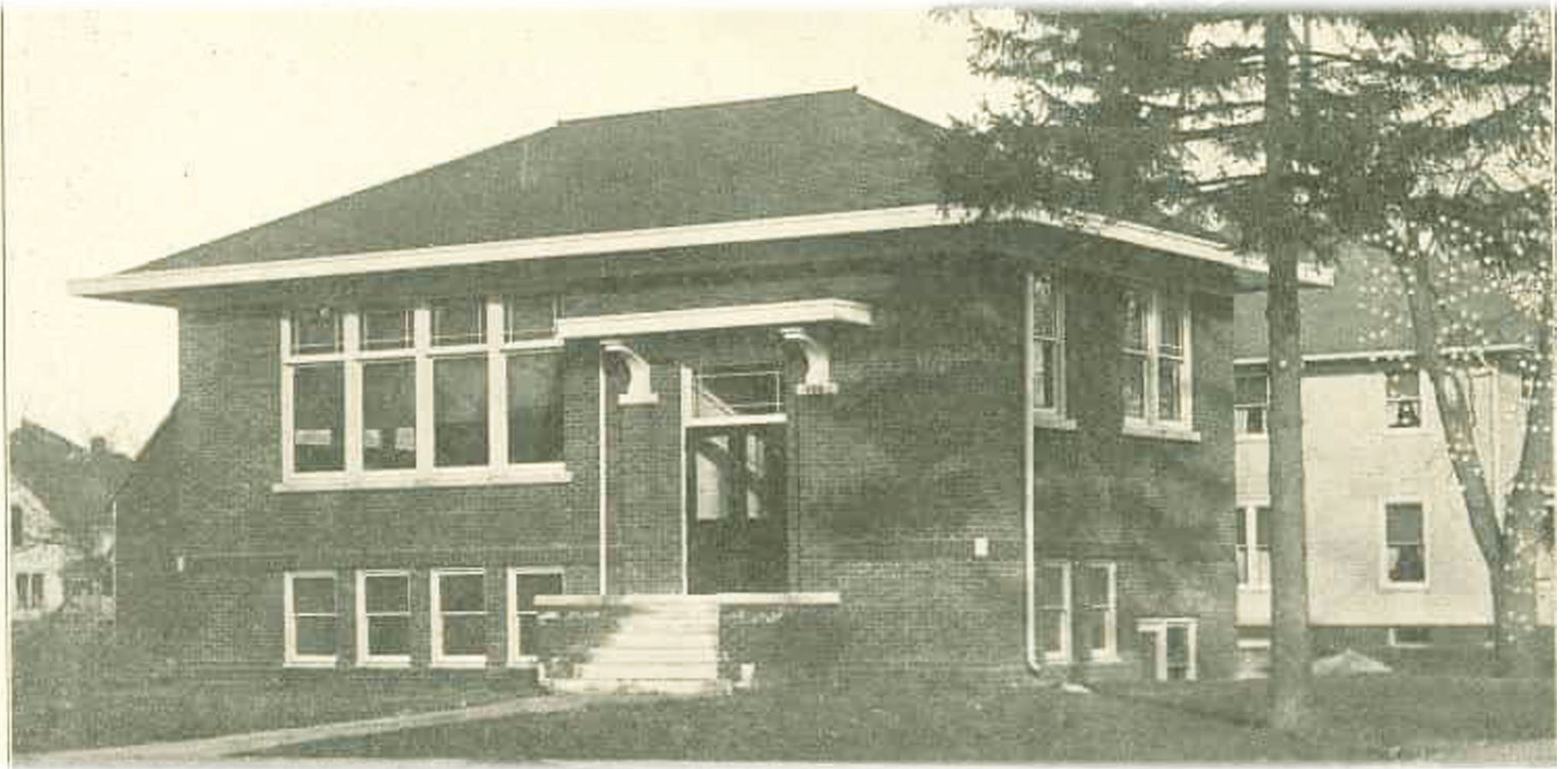
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LOGAN *Public Library*

BY AARON HICKMAN • news@enterprisepub.com



Black and white image depicting the front exterior of the Logan Public Library in 1922.

COURTESY OF CARNEGIE LIBRARIES IN IOWA PROJECT

The final Carnegie library to be erected in Harrison County was the Logan Public Library, which also had the longest process of communicating with the Carnegie Corporation in order to secure funds for the library's construction.

The initial Logan Public Library got its start when two retired principals of Logan High School made their ideas known to the public, which inspired a meeting to be held in November 1913. At the meeting, the first library board was elected, and a room in the northeast corner of the courthouse was designated as the new library.

A couple years later, correspondence began between James Bertram, secretary for the Carnegie Corporation, and J.M. Albertson, secretary of the Logan Library Board, regarding a grant to construct a new library building.

On Dec. 3, 1915, an official offer was sent by Bertram, saying, "... Carnegie

Corporation of New York will be glad to give Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to erect a Free Public Library for Logan Town and Jefferson Township, Iowa."

This grant was only to be given if the local government elected to maintain the library at a cost of \$1,000 a year. A resolution agreeing to the terms provided by the Carnegie Corporation was signed in March 1916.

It's worth noting that the entire project wouldn't have started without the support of women in the community, both in 1913 and again in 1915. A synopsis of the activities of the temporary library organization states the following:

"To the ladies of our community belongs the credit for having taken the initial step in originating the library movement and lastly for accomplishing its consummation. For, at the instance of the various social and literary clubs of our town, whose memberships are

composed wholly of ladies, a mass meeting was called and held in the Harrison Agricultural Extension Building, on the evening of Friday, Nov. 14, 1913, which was attended by more than one hundred people."

In 1915, there was a vocal minority of those against the library. The women had to have a strong turnout yet again if the project was to carry on and funds from the Carnegie Corporation were to be secured.

According to the same temporary library organization synopsis, a special election was held regarding the question of establishing a public library on May 17, 1915, in the City Hose House. Four hundred-seventy four total ballots were cast, with 255 for the proposition, 216 against and three ballots spoiled.

When breaking down the votes further, it is shown that 249 women voted, with 150 for the proposition and 96 against for

Carnegie Libraries of Harrison County



PHOTOS BY AARON HICKMAN | MVTN

The Logan Public Library as it stands today.

a majority of 54 for it. The three spoiled ballots mentioned previously all belonged to women.

Two hundred-twenty five men voted, with 105 for the proposition and 120 against for a majority of 15 against. The final majority by which the proposition carried was 39 due to the determination of the community's women.

The controversy didn't end there. Male members of the community sent letters to the Carnegie Corporation explaining that an "illegal vote" had taken place, and that the townspeople of Logan didn't want funding for the library.

On May 5, 1916, a letter was sent to the library board expressing displeasure with the construction plans that were in place, as the library was to be placed in the public square.

According to the letter's writer, this would affect various celebrations and meetings that were held in the public square, which they argued was a "strong sentiment" from members of the community.

Because of these various holdups, it took a while to get the library built and ready

for the public. When looking at the original blueprints, the eventual building that was constructed was about half the size of the one planned originally.

A dedication was finally held at the courthouse for the new Carnegie library on Dec. 28, 1920. The library remained the same for quite some time before a remodeling took place in 1967, which helped to create a children's room. In 1988, the library doubled its space to 4,800 square feet, with a new entry and elevator on the east side making the building ADA accessible.

This addition also provided lounge and study areas, as well as additional shelf space. A meeting room with a kitchenette and handicapped accessible restrooms were added to the basement.



A sketch of the library made by Anderzhon Architects.

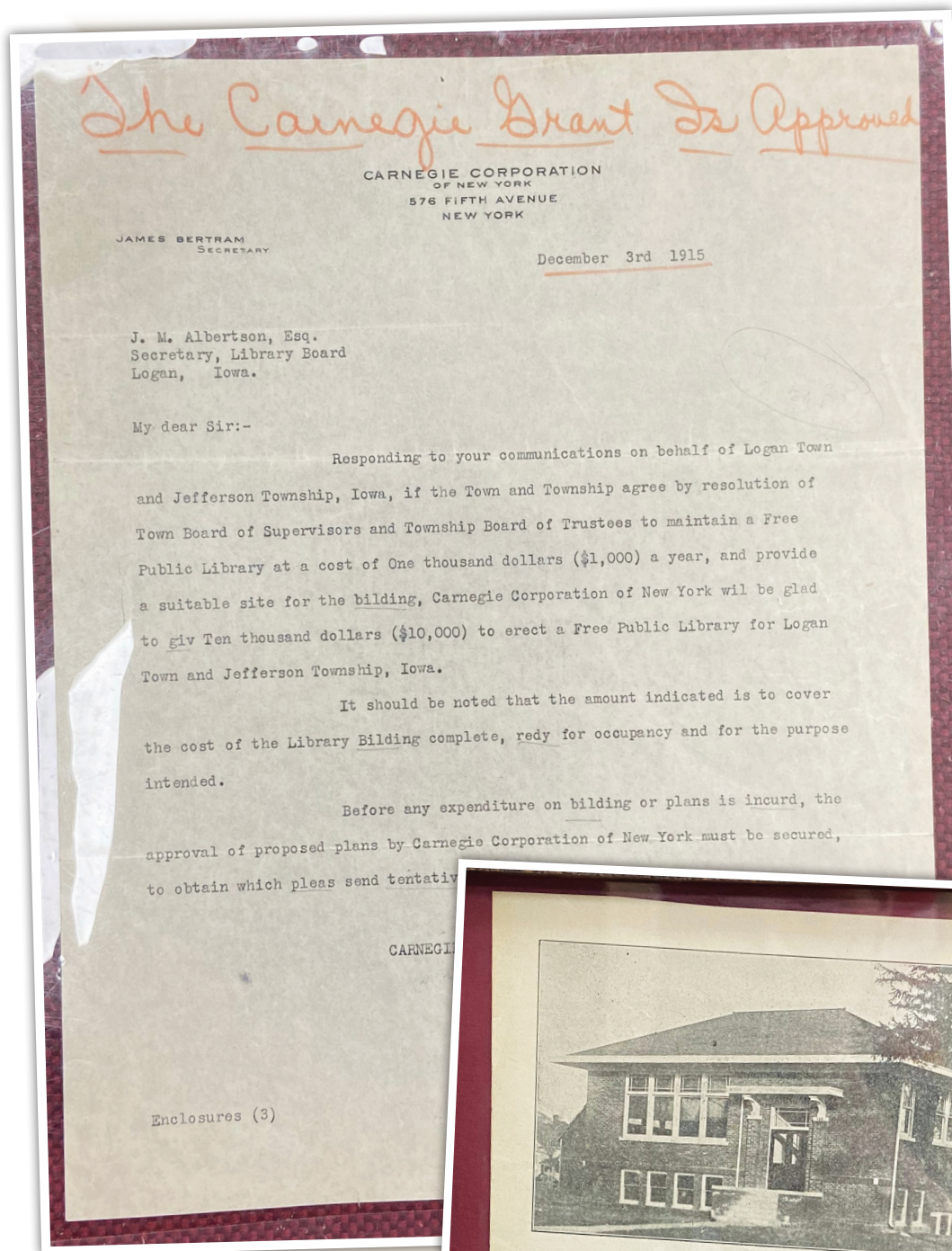
Former library directors Ila Wohlers and Helen Wetzstein oversaw much of these changes, with their stamps on the Logan Public Library being especially worthy of recognition.

Current director Kate Simmons has been in the position since February 2022. Despite having no technical professional experience, Simmons did volunteer at the library all throughout high school.

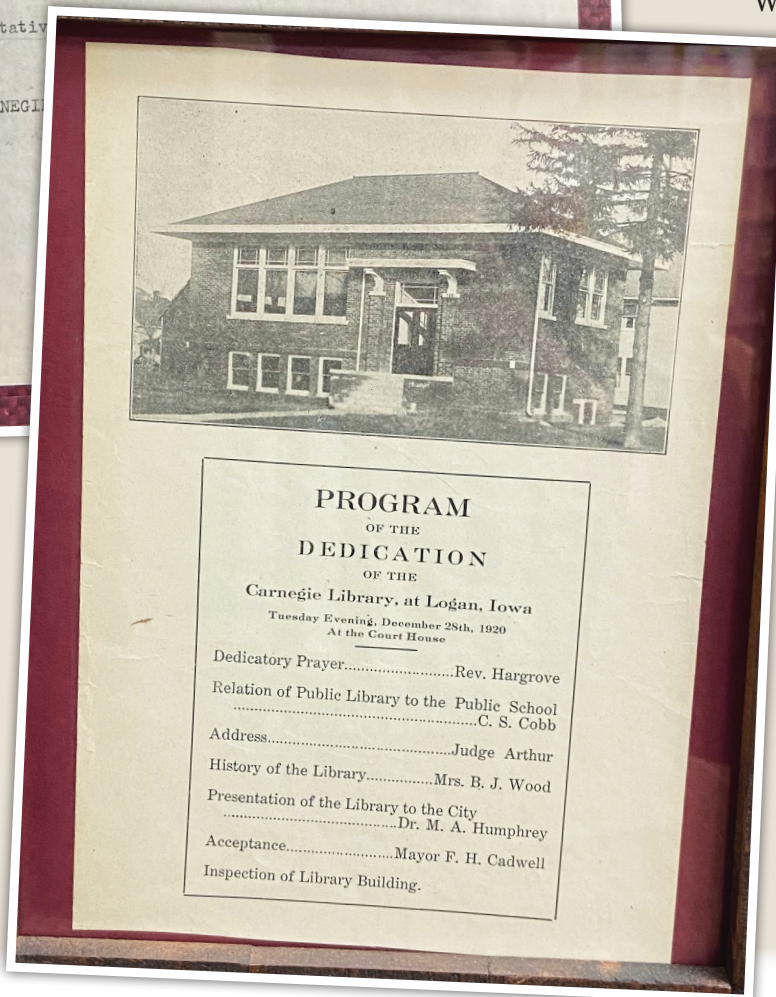
"I spent hours," she said. "I spent my life at the library, first in Ottawa, then here when we moved here."

Working as one of the volunteers who

Carnegie Libraries of Harrison County



AARON HICKMAN | MVTN
Above, James Bertram's letter to J.M. Albertson remains in the Logan Public Library today. At right, an original program from the library's dedication is displayed on the wall of the Logan Public Library.



put barcodes in the books and got rid of the physical card catalog, Simmons detailed the love she has developed for the library she worked her way up in.

“It means the universe to me,” Simmons said. “If I had to, I would be out in front of a bulldozer or wrecking ball. And it’s not just the physical space, but what libraries stand for and what the librarian profession means and their role in society. The misperception that librarians are these meek little ladies with glasses, but really they’re warriors defending the First Amendment. We’re putting information out there, and we’re constantly trying to suit a variety of needs and serve a community. Everyone thinks we just sit here, crochet and read books. I have so much love and respect for this building, this institution, this town, and it’s a personal passion.”

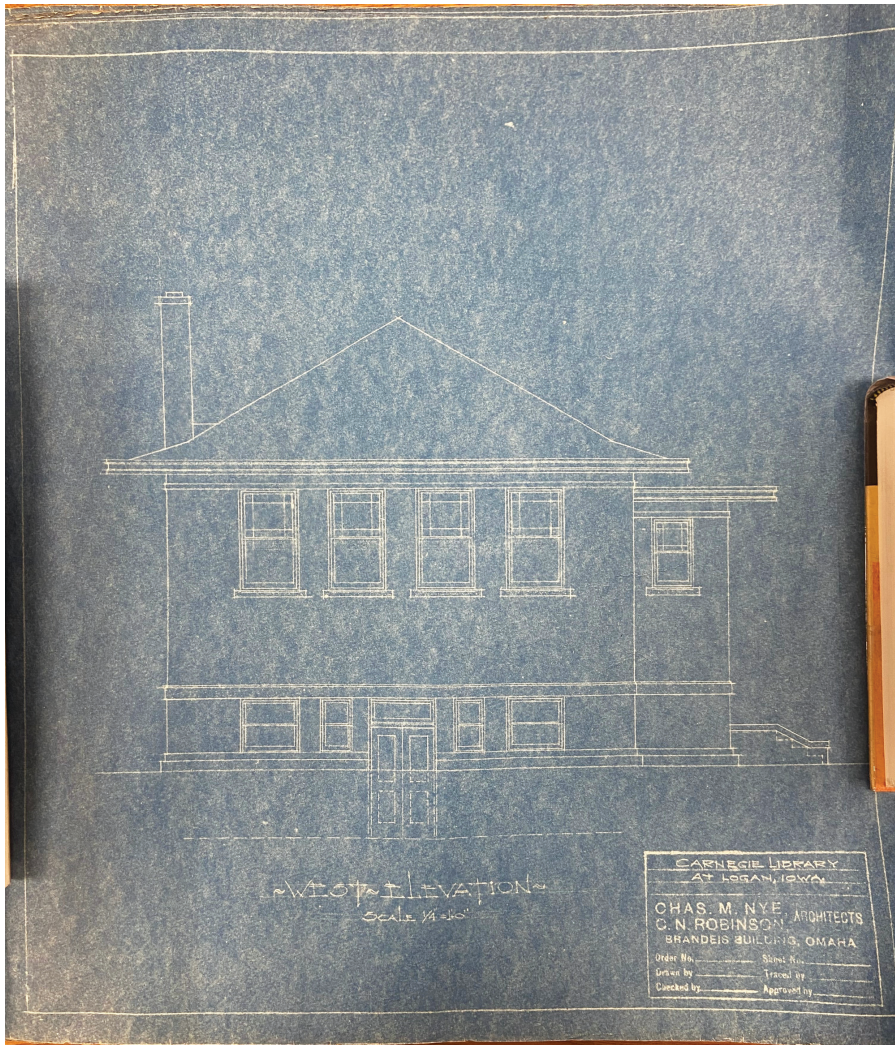
Simmons also believes she has a tendency to “take too much responsibility” for making the library a space where all members of the community feel comfortable, citing the fact that libraries are one of the last physical spaces where you can make use of services without the expectation of paying for something.

“We provide free Wi-Fi, computer access and all kinds of things that you can borrow and take home,” Simmons said. “We have all kinds of games and toys downstairs, so you can bring your kids and have an afternoon at the library. People come and sit for hours reading newspapers and watching movies on their phones. It’s safe, it’s warm, it’s quiet, it’s comfortable, and that’s probably one of the most important needs that a library fills in a community.”

With the aforementioned Wohlers and Wetzstein, along with several other directors and librarians, bringing something special to the profession, Simmons hopes to add her own unique stamp while maintaining, enhancing and promoting what came before.

“I’m big on connectedness,” she said. “As a little kid I lived in a really old house and I would stand on the stairs and just be blown away by the fact that it was built in the

Carnegie Libraries of Harrison County



AARON HICKMAN | MVTN

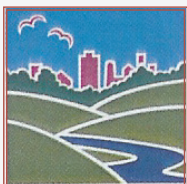
This is a revised architectural blueprint for the library, as it was originally supposed to be about twice the size.

late 1800s. Who stood on those stairs and got the D-Day news, or found out about the bombing of Pearl Harbor in my house at the kitchen table? I'm in this building that was built in the 1920s, and part of an organization that started before that. That's just amazing to me. It feels unreal to me to be a part of that."

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SEBASTIAN CANIGLIA

SENIOR • MISSOURI VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

BY AARON HICKMAN • news@enterprisepub.com



“No matter what you’re in, there’s always lessons you can take into the real world. It’s made up a good portion of who I am.”

– Sebastian Caniglia

While living in Papillion back in second or third grade, Sebastian Caniglia began taking piano lessons.

Liking it for the most part, Caniglia was still unsure about how committed he wanted to be to music. After his family moved to Missouri Valley, he stopped playing piano for a long time.

But as it turns out, the seed that was planted just took a little longer to grow.

“I joined band in middle school, and still was kind of up in the air,” Caniglia said. “My friend got me to join choir the second semester of eighth grade, and that’s when I really started to find that music was my way to go.”

Now involved in National Honor Society, student council and Hope Squad, while serving as senior class vice president on top of playing soccer and participating in group speech, theater, choir and show choir, the musical activities give Caniglia a temporary escape.

“Whatever I’m doing with it, it gives me a space to be away,” he said. “There’s nothing else to think about. It’s just me, and I can express my emotions without thinking about anything else that’s happening at that time.”

AARON HICKMAN | MVTN

Sebastian Caniglia, a senior at Missouri Vally High School, is involved with several activities, including National Honor Society, student council, soccer, theater, choir and show choir, among others.

The activities Caniglia is a part of have also provided some great life lessons. Specifically mentioning how soccer has taught him how to be a good person on and off the field, Caniglia feels that each activity has played a part in shaping him into the person he is today.

“No matter what you’re in, there’s always lessons you can take into the real world,” he said. “It’s made up a good portion of who I am.”

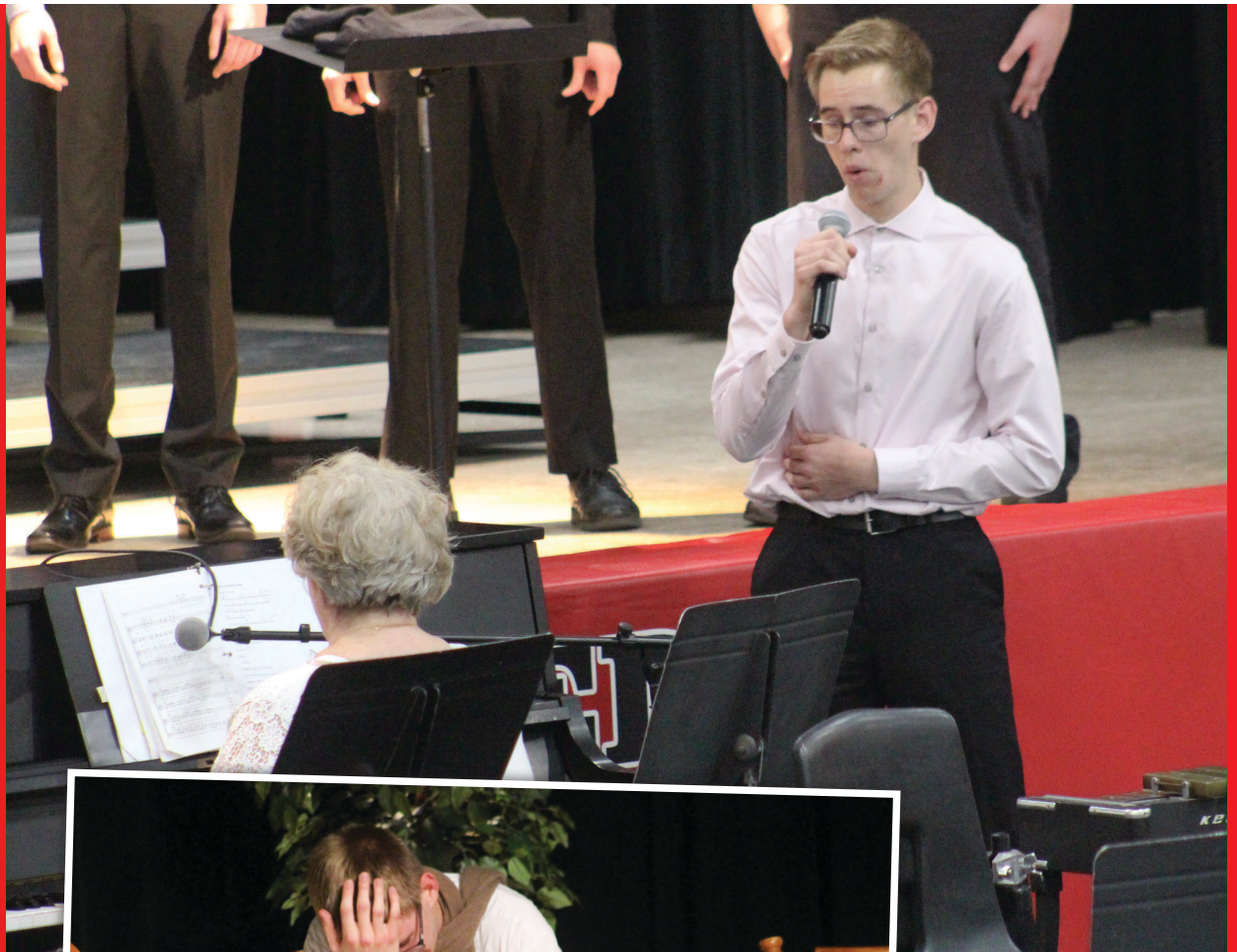
On a more serious note, Caniglia’s involvement in Hope Squad is something he handles with great importance. A peer-to-peer suicide prevention program that was just introduced in Missouri Valley last year, Caniglia joined so he could help others.

“I want to be able to help people as much as I can,” he said. “By learning things about suicide prevention, I’m able to either better understand what someone is going through or help to move them in the right direction if I can’t help.”

Attending the University of Nebraska-Omaha this upcoming fall and debating on whether he’ll major in cybersecurity, computer science or both, Caniglia also plans to join choir and possibly band.

One thing that’s for sure, though, is that he’ll continue to look for ways to grow despite the changes he’s already undergone throughout his high school career.

“I feel like I’ve grown a lot,” Caniglia said. “Over the years, there’s always something new or something I’m learning to become a better person and be better for others around me.”



AARON HICKMAN | MVTN

Above, Sebastian Caniglia and Mrs. Leana Goodrich performed a duet with “Joseph and Mary’s Song”, written and arranged by Goodrich, during Missouri Valley’s 6-12 Holiday Concert this past January. At left, Jonas Fairweather (played by Sebastian Caniglia) loses himself in a flask after suffering great misfortune during a production of “Lily, The Felon’s Daughter” at the Missouri Valley High School auditorium.

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 A collage of images showing various antique furniture pieces, including a wooden cabinet and a table, and several classic cars, including a white convertible, a blue pickup truck, an orange sports car, and a red classic car.

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Senior Spotlight

BY AARON HICKMAN
news@enterprisepub.com

You name it and Nicole Sherer has done it.

Over the course of her high school career, the Woodbine senior has participated in multiple sports, choir, band, theater and student council, just to name a few. Sherer also boasts a 4.0 GPA and number one class rank, on top of being the chief editor and founder of the Woodbine Weekly school newspaper and deeply involved in community volunteer work.

Being a part of so many things, Sherer has to manage her time responsibly and effectively.

“I’m a big planner,” she said. “I like to schedule everything out. Right now, on days that I don’t have basketball games I schedule speech practices after practice. Coaches are really flexible, so that makes a big difference. In school, I just have to avoid distractions.”

Playing basketball since she was in third grade, the first team all-conference star also plays softball and runs track and cross country. Performing as the lead in school plays and serving as student body president add on to the aforementioned activities Sherer is a part of.

“I just love that I go to Woodbine so I can do everything,” she said.

Part of a very musical family, Sherer has always been surrounded by music. Singing in choir ever since she was young, Sherer explained a very impactful part of her love for music growing came when her sister got married two years ago.

Her sister asked Sherer and her brother to sing a whole set of songs at the wedding, which they had fun performing at such a meaningful event.

“That was kind of my big ‘aha’ moment,” Sherer said.

Competition is also something that drives Sherer. Describing herself as competitive since she was young, being able to pursue that in different activities keeps Sherer engaged.

“I would say basketball is probably the hardest for me to stay cool and collected,” she said. “I know it all comes from a good place, so I don’t think it’s ever meant to be negative. It’s kind of hard to be competitive in choir, so that

Nicole Sherer

SENIOR • WOODBINE HIGH SCHOOL



AARON HICKMAN | MVTN

Nicole Sherer, senior at Woodbine, is a 4.0 student, first team all-conference basketball star, chief editor and founder of the Woodbine Weekly school newspaper, and member of choir, theater and student council, with many other activities in the mix.



MATT GENGLER | MVTN

Nicole Sherer goes up for a shot during Woodbine's Class 1A - Region 5 Championship win over Westwood. Sherer stuffed the stat sheet with nine points, seven rebounds and eight assists in the contest, helping the Tigers clinch their first state tournament appearance in 40 years.

helps me cool down.”

Trying everything has helped Sherer to keep an open mind. Going out for her first full season of cross country this year, she learned that she loved the sport. It served as a good lesson, Sherer said, that there are ways to enjoy everything you do and to be involved and successful as long as you commit and work hard.

Her accomplishments on the basketball court, as well as the transformation of the actual program during her four years, are a big demonstration of that principle.

“In basketball I have our school records for season steals, career steals, season assists, career assists and career rebounds,” Sherer said. “Those were statistical vantage points of success, but my team is kind of making a state run in basketball. I remember when I was a freshman and we were just trying to have a winning season, so just seeing the hard work pay off there is great.”

Citing her dad Noel as an inspiration to her, Sherer mentioned his musicality, coaching and support as things that have had a profound impact on her. Sherer believes seeing someone be so talented and successful in some of the same activities as her has helped her to achieve her own success.

Because of that success, Sherer will have options



COURTESY OF CHELLE'S CREATIVE PHOTOS, WOODBINE

Sherer has played Alice in “Alice in Wonderland”, as pictured here, as well as Dorothy in “The Wizard of Oz”.

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Senior Spotlight

when making her college plans. Undecided on where she's going yet, Sherer does know that she wants to go to a four-year school and major in media and journalism, as well as run track.

"I don't want to go too far from home, but obviously Nebraska and South Dakota are close, and I live in Iowa," she said. "I think those three states are where I'm narrowing my search down to."

Sherer's passion for journalism started when she was a little kid. Always writing from a young age, she recalls when she first made a Google account and would simply use it to open up Google Docs and write.

"I also founded our school newspaper last year, so I kind of learned how to cater my articles to my audience, which was the high school," Sherer said. "I used graphic design to format things, and I just really like the way that writing can communicate with people. When you write something, you have time to figure out exactly what you want to say, and I like that aspect of communication."

Looking to pass the responsibility of the school paper down to an underclassman, Sherer has gone through plenty of changes of her own since the time she first stepped foot in the high school.

Believing adaptability to be the biggest thing she's learned over the past four years, Sherer will carry the lessons learned into her upcoming college career and beyond.

"There's just been a lot of things thrown my way," she said. "I've learned how to, not just overcome, but also thrive with those changes. I've developed more confidence and a better understanding of what I want to do in the future."

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Senior Spotlight

COURTESY OF SHERI STEINKUEHLER HAST

Ethan Hanigan is a senior at Boyer Valley High School. He has participated in numerous sports, as well as National Honor Society, student council and FFA.



Ethan Hanigan

SENIOR • BOYER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

BY AARON HICKMAN • news@enterprise.pub.com

Boyer Valley senior Ethan Hanigan believes the biggest way he's grown over the course of his high school career is by learning from people who are trying to help him.

Participating in multiple sports, namely baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf and track, Hanigan is also class president, treasurer for the National Honor Society and a member of FFA.

"Just looking back to my freshman year, I can see huge growth from not really wanting to learn how to get better and thinking I was the best to, 'Wow, I really need improvement. Let me take

advice from this person who has already gone through this and is already here willing to help me,'" the Bulldog said. "I don't have to go and ask for help, I just have to listen and be involved."

Two people who have helped Hanigan on that journey are his old football coach Cody Malone and current golf coach Gary Neilsen.

With Malone, Hanigan learned how to work hard towards a goal while also having a good time doing so.

"I only had him (as a coach) my freshman year and part of my sophomore year, and throughout middle school I had him as a teacher, but because of him I

have really enjoyed being in high school and doing all the different activities that I'm a part of," Hanigan said.

Hanigan took his lumps on the golf course, which is where Neilsen's guidance came in.

"The best way of putting it for him is, he made golf fun when I wasn't good at it," Hanigan said. "Golf is a very difficult sport to enjoy when you're struggling, and he helped me enjoy it when I was struggling and get better at it through practice."

As far as accomplishments go, there are a few special ones that come to mind for the senior.



COURTESY OF SHERI STEINKUEHLER HAST
Ethan Hanigan
 celebrates
 after making a
 difficult catch
 on a lineout in
 center field.

Lettering in baseball and getting a chance to play varsity as an eighth grader heading into freshman year, becoming a part of NHS and making it to state as a team for soil judging in FFA stand at the top of the list, Hanigan said.

Expanding on the agricultural side of things, he noted that he recently went to Iowa State for a campus visit, which was simply a formality.

“I’ve really decided on Iowa State at this point,” Hanigan said. “I’m planning on doing ag business, and possibly doubling it with economics.

“My dad went to Iowa State, he graduated back in the early 2000s, and he now owns a business and works for himself. That’s something I eventually want to be doing. I want to work for myself and be on my own schedule. He’s turned out pretty successful doing so, so I kind of wanted to follow in his footsteps to get to a similar point in life as where he is.”

Hanigan concluded his thoughts by mentioning how proud he was of not only himself, but his entire class at Boyer Valley.

“It’s really been a journey for us,” he said. “We started out our freshman year with COVID, so our first year got cut short. I’m sure a lot of us, myself included, enjoyed that, but every year since then has felt super long and dragged out. I’m proud of us for pushing through that.”



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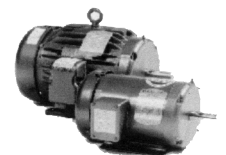


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WYATT REISZ

SENIOR • LOGAN-MAGNOLIA HIGH SCHOOL

BY AARON HICKMAN
news@enterprisepub.com

On Saturday, Feb. 19, Logan-Magnolia senior Wyatt Reisz was crowned as a state champion wrestler for the third year in a row.

Also involved in National Honor Society, student council and football, the Panther spoke about how much this year's title meant to him.

"It feels really good putting in the hard work this season and seeing it pay off, which doesn't happen all the time," Reisz said. "Being the first three-timer (from Logan-Magnolia), it's really nice and I always hope to be an inspiration to younger kids. I know when I was younger, I always looked up to older kids, especially as a wrestler. I always thought the older wrestlers were super cool. Thinking about the youth now, I hope I'm a good example. Getting that three-timer accomplishment, I hope it's encouragement or something to look towards or a goal for them."

Someone else Reisz has looked up to is his father and assistant coach Doug Reisz, who first taught Wyatt and his brothers how to relate the lessons learned in wrestling to life.

"My family has always thought about wrestling as a great teacher of life lessons," he said. "In wrestling you've got to learn from your mistakes and identify things you're doing wrong. There's a lot of things that have been able to translate over, from handling losses to not giving up and pushing through.

"Keeping your composure, understanding what's important and remaining humble and gracious, in those ways I've always related



MATT GENGLER | MVTN
Wyatt Reisz became the first Panther to win three state titles in wrestling, capturing 200 career wins along the way.

it to my life. Over my whole wrestling career I've kind of learned more and more about how it relates."

While his father gave advice and helped with life lessons, Reisz's older brother Briar led by example. Currently wrestling for the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Briar was the first of the three Reisz brothers to make it to the state finals during his high school career.

"I've always looked up to him with how hard he's pushed himself and how he handles things," Wyatt said.

Now the youngest brother Corbin, who earned a third-place finish at state this season, is also a part of the Logan-Magnolia wrestling program.

And as the oldest brother in the room, Reisz serves in a different role now than he did earlier in his high school career.

"I enjoy every bit of it," he said. "It's always nice to know that I've got them with me. It's been really cool to see my younger brother grow and see my older brother go onto college. I'm in the middle, so it's neat to see from both angles as the younger one and now as the older one."

Committed to the Colorado School of Mines, Reisz will wrestle and major in mechanical engineering this upcoming fall.

The field of study was something he nar-



MATT GENGLER | MVTN

Wyatt Reisz had 55 carries for 229 yards and one touchdown as a senior for the Logan-Magnolia football team this past season.

rowed down heading into junior year, when he really started to think about what he wanted to do after high school.

"I started thinking about it more, what my skills and interests were, and I've always had an interest in the STEM fields," Reisz said. "Then I went on to figure out how my mind worked and what I thought would fit me best, and I landed on engineering as the best fit for me."

After that, it came down to checking out schools. With Iowa State and a few others being looked at initially, the Colorado School of Mines rose to the top of the list once it was on Reisz's radar.

"We talked to some of the coaches about the wrestling program," he said. "It took a few visits, and it was a pretty good fit. I love the campus, it's a super great university and I think it's the best fit for me for both wrestling and academics."

Believing his views on everything have matured over the course of his high school career, Reisz said that he's "grown up more" over the past four years.

But when he takes what he's learned to Golden, Colo., he'll have plenty of highlights to look back on and remember.

"With my dad and both of (my brothers) here, it's been special," Reisz said. "It's amazing to have them in my corner. There are memories you never forget."



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RILEY ACKER

Senior • West Harrison High School

BY AARON HICKMAN • news@enterprise.com

Describing all the activities and organizations that West Harrison senior Riley Acker is a part of can best be put into words by the man himself: “just about everything.”

President of the school’s National Honor Society and the FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) chapters, member of 4-H, captain of the cheer squad for basketball and football, team captain for cross country, four-year member of band and marching band and a previous volleyball manager and member of theater, Acker has stayed plenty busy throughout his high school career.

On top of that, he was voted Harrison County Fair King just a couple years ago.

Most importantly, though, the activities Acker has been a part of have provided some great lessons along the way.

“They definitely taught me that there’s more going on behind the scenes,” he said. “Keep my eyes going 360 degrees, be observational of what everyone else is doing, step up and take leadership positions when you can or when it’s needed. Most of the time I’m not one to jump the gun and say, ‘Hey, I’m gonna do this and that.’ Normally if it’s needed or if it’s asked for, that’s kind of the better way to look at things.”

Acker also believes he became more personable, as being a part of more activities leads to knowing more about what’s going on. That has resulted in the senior becoming a “go-to guy” for fellow students’ questions and inquiries.

That’s apparent while simply walking the halls of West Harrison with Acker, with seemingly everyone who passes by knowing the Hawkeye’s name and making a point to say hello.

“I definitely want to be someone people can come to if they need help,” Acker said. “I don’t necessarily want to be the big popular person, but more so



PHOTOS BY MATT GENGLER | MVTN

Above, Acker is also captain of the cheer squad for both basketball and football. At left, Acker served as captain for the West Harrison cross country team.

Senior Spotlight



COURTESY OF SOPHIA JOHNSEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Riley Acker is a senior at West Harrison High School. He takes part in various activities, including National Honor Society, FCCLA, 4-H, cheer squad, cross country and band. He plans to attend Iowa State as an architecture major.

someone who people feel comfortable being around. I know being a freshman or an underclassman can be scary, so I kind of made it my mission as an upperclassman to put myself out there and see if anyone needed help.”

That’s something Acker believes is “a big 180” from when he was a freshman who mostly looked out for himself.

“I felt like coming in as a freshman, I was a little selfish,” he said. “I wanted so much for myself and I put my priorities first. I saw that as I was opening my arms for other people, I was helping myself out. It was eye-opening, now that I’ve grown up.”

Before entering high school, Acker was scared that no one would know him. He eventually

learned that, living in a small town, a lot more people knew him than he thought.

One person who knows him well is Kim Nunez, who Acker cited as “a big role model.” A retired teacher who is now on the school board, Nunez was Acker’s TAG (talented and gifted) teacher up until her retirement.

“She’s always pushed me and had the nicest words for me,” Acker said. “She’s just always doing something. Since she retired she still comes back and subs, and I see her almost on a daily basis. She’s always reaching out to me and showing me the cool things that are going on... If I’m making her proud it’s a good thing.”

Acker plans to attend Iowa State and major in architecture.



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'IT IS MY HOME'

BY GREG FORBES

For the Missouri Valley Times News

Missouri Valley Schools superintendent Christi Gochenour has spent most of her professional life in the Missouri Valley area.

She began her career as a teacher at Missouri Valley schools before eventually becoming secondary principal at Logan-Magnolia, where she graduated high school in 1988. She is currently serving in her first year as superintendent at Missouri Valley.

Aside from a stint with the AEA, Gochenour's life has been split between the Logan-Magnolia and Missouri Valley districts.

And she wouldn't have it any other way.

"For me, leaving the area has never been an option," she said. "This is home for me."

Gochenour said she never necessarily set out to be a school administrator and didn't consider the possibility of doing so at one of the districts to which she's strongly connected. But when the opportunity arose to do so at both Lo-Ma as principal and Missouri Valley as superintendent, she saw an opportunity to use her passion for rural schools to help elevate her home districts.

"There is a different level of, 'I want this to continue on and be strong,'" she said. "It is my home, this is mine and I have a vested interest in this school (Missouri Valley) and a vested interest in Lo-Ma."

Gochenour said her chance to return to Missouri Valley as a leader coincides with a polarizing time in education in the state of Iowa. With the passing of the controversial school choice bill, debates regarding curriculum and growing questions each day about the funding available for schools, Gochenour feels honored to be the voice that represents not only Missouri Valley, but other small, rural area schools on a state and national level.

"It's an honor that I feel to be able to represent Harrison County, Logan-Magnolia and now Missouri Valley," she said. "To know that this is home for me and where I intend to be until the end of my career and know I get to represent and shout and advocate for Missouri Valley at a state and national level is an honor and I'll do whatever it takes and do it with pride."

She said one of the unique aspects of spending as much time as she has in the area and returning for another stint at Missouri Valley is seeing the next generation of students. Former students are now bringing their children to school, which Gochenour said is important for the future of small town Iowa.

"I love the fact that we have so many of our kids come back and want to raise families here," she said. "You want kids to go out and see the world, but you also want to tell them it's OK to come back and raise your kids there."



Christi Gochenour

"That feeling of seeing kids you taught walking down the street with their kids or seeing their kids at the grocery store and being able to know them, that's the personal factor you don't get at bigger schools."

Gochenour said she knows she's been blessed to be able to spend her career in two districts that have had a number of effects and influences on her throughout her life. It's a rare opportunity, she said, but one she doesn't take for granted.

"This is a calling I have and I feel strongly about it. I'll advocate for a strong school setting forever," she said. "To be able to do it here, where I graduated, for 12 years and then now to do it in the town I've lived in for 34 years... I don't want to say it's utopia, but it's such a beautiful feeling."

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'A fresh start'

Christiansen returns to lead 'different' BV years after graduation

BY GREG FORBES

For the Missouri Valley Times News

Nearly 20 years ago, Jeremy Christiansen began his career in education at Fremont-Mills schools.

Little did he know, his career would lead the Boyer Valley grad back to his alma mater as superintendent this school year.

Throughout his 18-year career at Fremont-Mills, Christiansen eventually became a middle school and high school principal and activities director. He was encouraged by administrators at the district to pursue his superintendent's license, which he did about the time the same position came open at BV. Christiansen said he didn't set out to one day return to BV, but said becoming an administrator led to what he calls a coincidence he's "glad" happened.

"I didn't have a location, I guess, in mind, so the short answer is, no, I never planned for this to happen, but some things just worked out that way and I'm glad I did," he said. "It's been a great first nine months."

When he saw the opportunity to become a superintendent back home, Christiansen said it wasn't an automatic decision. He said he had to ask himself some questions and the answers to



Jeremy Christiansen

many weren't clear immediately.

"There was hesitation," he said. "I had to think if this was the place for my family

and I, if it was the same, if it was different...just lots of thoughts."

To get a little insight prior to accepting the job, Christiansen said he touched base with people from home and learned a lot had changed. He didn't see that as a negative, however.

"It's interesting because after being gone for 18 years, everything is different," he said. "There are parts that didn't feel like coming back to where I grew up, but that's great for a fresh start."

While he had admitted hesitations, he grew more comfortable with the idea of returning home throughout the interview.

"Then that excitement takes over, you get to the interview process and you think, 'Yeah I can see my family and I here,'" Christiansen said.

Walking through the doors at the beginning of the year as BV's new superintendent, Christiansen said he felt a sense of pride - not just for the chance to lead his hometown district, but to lead what he saw as an entirely new district from which he grew up.

"(Pride) was there, but for the most part, it was a completely new district, a completely new community which is why it wasn't a lot like coming home," he said, "but that made it seem like a fresh start."

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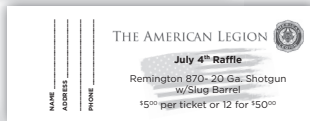
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**Little
Willow
Dog Park:
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to be
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KENDRA BECKNER | MVTN
Dogs have many obstacles to play with
at the park, including jumping rings.

BY KENDRA BECKNER
Missouri Valley Times News

One park in Missouri Valley is a paws-atively good time for dogs and humans alike.

The Little Willow Dog Park has become a local staple in the years following its grand opening. Having hosted a wedding, a funeral, a park shelter dedication, and a 4-H dog show, the park has found itself holding a special place in the hearts of many.

According to Sally Salter, who originally came up with the idea for the park and is one of its biggest supporters, the Little Willow Dog Park is the only dog park in all of Harrison County and was built mostly from donations of native individuals and businesses, along with a donor from Pennsylvania. Additional funds for the project also came from the Jimmy King Grant for the dog bone themed benches and the waste stations in 2018.

Also, the Community Foundation Grant, received in November 2019, was

used for the expansion to the dog park. Salter also reported that this dog park was up and running in a relatively short amount of time from its conception in October 2016 to its completion on Nov. 5, 2017.

Salter recalled that she first proposed the idea to the Missouri Valley city council, which referred her to the park board. The original proposal was that the park be built on the old football field in Missouri Valley, but the space had already been spoken for. The suggestion



Evan White stands with the newly renovated shade structure that was a large part of his Eagle Scout project.

KENDRA BECKNER | MVTN

“The Little Willow Dog Park was built with a lot of love put into it. It was designed for our local people and visitors from afar, and for the love of our dogs. There are so many stories and loving special touches at the park. Our dog park is not just a dog park - it is so truly uniquely special. I guarantee you will not find a dog park throughout the country like our special one right here in Iowa.”

– Sally Salter



was then made by Zack Olinger, the Park Board Supervisor at the time, to consider Little Willow Park, an underused and forgotten city park. Soon the city council approved the idea, with Councilman Leonard Johnson stating, “I think we need to get behind her (Salter) with this”. In no time Salter was hard at work making plans and collecting donations for the project.

For 365 days a year, the park is open to the public from dawn until dusk. With almost one acre of area for the dogs to play, the park has a double gated entryway with separate areas for large and small dogs. In addition, the park has running water year-round, furnished waste bags, bathrooms for the pup’s human buddies and daily maintenance.

The park sports a patriotic red, white and blue theme, agility equipment, shade shelters, adult porch swings and dog

COURTESY OF
SALLY SALTER
**A tribute to
Troy Moyer, a
supporter of
the park who
passed away.**

PHOTO
SUBMITTED
One of the
dog tree
stump carvings at Little
Willow Dog
Park.



bone themed benches throughout. Donation bones are on the fence, all holding special memories and crafted by local metal artist Jeff Davis, owner of Heavy Metal Renaissance of Woodbine.

Wooden stump dog carvings, seven in total, were all carved from the tree stumps that existed at that park. More carvings are set to be completed at the location in April 2023. All the carvings have been created by internationally known chainsaw carving artist Jeff Coss with Bear Grove Chainsaw Carvings of Cumberland, Iowa.

An artistic winding sidewalk fondly referred to as “The Boulevard” leads park goers on a path to visit the dog carvings. In its time of operation, the Little Willow Dog Park was named Best Dog Park in the state on the website BringFido.com in June 2022. This is a big honor for a little town.

“The Little Willow Dog Park was built with a lot of love put into it,” Salter said. “It was designed for our local people and visitors from afar, and for the love of our dogs. There are so many stories and loving special touches at the park. Our dog park is not just a dog park - it is so truly uniquely special. I guarantee you will not find a dog park throughout the country like our special one right here in Iowa.”

The dog park is a great representation of not only the City of Missouri Valley, but Harrison County as a whole. It serves as an example of a community coming together to make something worth being proud of.



From Left, Doctors: Dr. Noland Broekemier, Dr. Michael Macaitis, and Dr. Matthew Yen

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KENDRA BECKNER | MVTN
 Oaklyn White went to the Eagle Scout Dedication on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022, to support her uncle Evan White. She tried out some of the dog park obstacles while she was there.

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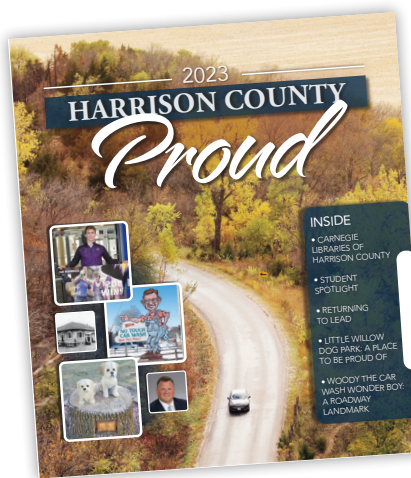


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WOODY THE CAR WASH WONDER BOY: A ROADWAY LANDMARK



AARON HICKMAN | MVTN

“Woody the Car Wash Wonder Boy”, located just outside the Ultra No Touch Car Wash in Logan, has greeted travelers on Highway 30 for more than 20 years.

BY AARON HICKMAN
news@enterprisepub.com

For more than 20 years, a particular sign has caught the eyes of those passing through Logan on Highway 30.

That sign belongs to the Ultra No Touch Car Wash, located on 114 South 3rd Ave.

“It was something eye-catching,” said present owner Mat Gross. “It’s right off of Highway 30, and you could miss it, but it’s hard to miss a 16-foot tall man. That was the reason behind it.”

Like most pieces of art, it all

started with a sketch. Drawn by Bill Johns back in 1999, who was operating out of Sun City Center, Fla., at the time, the sign depicts a particular individual who helped get the business off the ground.

Simply called “Woody the Car Wash Wonder Boy,” there is more than meets the eye for those looking at the giant figure pointing towards the business Gross’ father Damian built.

And after two decades of passerby wondering who that pointing man was supposed to resemble, Gross has the answers.

“For years and years, ever since it was put up, no one knew exactly who that face was supposed to be,” Gross said. “It was not my dad. It was actually the banker who borrowed my dad the money to put the business up. Local guy, his name is Jim Wood. He was a pretty prominent guy in the community and the area. He was the president and owner of Logan State Bank, which was formerly First National Bank of Logan, which was the name of the bank at the time of the loan.”

Gross doesn’t believe his dad got Jim’s permission, but

rather took a “don’t ask, beg for forgiveness later” approach. The gamble paid off, as the sign has become a staple in town — that’s part of the reason Gross was ready to provide the backstory.

“Both my dad and Jim have passed, so why not put the story out there at this point? Neither one of them can object to it now,” he said with a chuckle.

Back in 2011, a big hailstorm tore through Harrison County, leaving the west side of the sign damaged badly enough that it was taken down. For more than a decade, those



COURTESY OF LOGAN STATE BANK

James (Jim) Wood worked in the banking business for roughly 60 years, starting out as a bookkeeper and eventually becoming president of Logan State Bank, then known as First National Bank of Logan.

traveling east on Highway 30 have been the only ones greeted by the sign.

At this point in time, Gross is in the process of working with the upper-level art students at Logan-Magnolia to redo that side of the sign. This would be part of a somewhat lengthy process, as the east side of the sign would need to be taken down and given to the students in order to make an exact mirror image.

"To be able to promote the young kids' work, there's a sense of pride," Gross said. "Highway 30 gets a lot of traffic, and generally people don't get to see high school students' work real often. They can work on it inside in a climate-controlled area. They can work on it anytime instead of only when it's nice outside. I'm pretty excited about that, to get the students to be a part of it and get my sign redone. I think it's a win-win for everybody."

Gross was in junior high when the car wash was opened and the sign was first put up. In the beginning, fellow students would give him a hard time about his dad putting "that big man pointing" right on Highway 30.

The business itself, though, is a part of Damian Gross' legacy, and the legacy of the Gross family overall. Providing a service for more than two decades now, there's pride in carrying on something that Mat and his brothers first became a part of all those years ago.

And after his father passed away unexpectedly four years ago, Mat and his brothers weren't exactly faced with a difficult decision.

"We could've easily sold it off, but it's a sound business and it's worth it to keep it around and keep improving," Gross said. "It's a service to the community, people use it and we do our best to keep it up as best we can."

Gross' father was a business owner in the community for roughly 40 years, owning a gas station, a residential construction company, working as a local real estate agent and eventually building the carwash.

That's something Gross is proud of, as he's been involved with several civic groups on top of running the car wash to carry on that legacy of community involvement while also making a name for himself.

That ethic first started at the car wash all those years ago, with Gross and his brothers spending time learning the tricks of the trade.

"My father definitely took advantage of child labor," Gross said with a laugh. "Growing up, and throughout high school, me and my two younger brothers would spend quite a bit of time there. The day-to-day of the car wash is not cosmic, it's just making sure the trash is empty and the bays are clean. If anybody has issues, just help them out and make sure they don't damage any of the equipment."



Something that Gross gained from his work as a youth was the ability to talk to strangers and be comfortable dealing with the general public, which he believes to be a great asset as he's entered professional life.

And now that he's the owner-operator, Gross said he does his best to not only better the business for himself and his family, but for the community as a whole as he works to make his own stamp on the area.

With small town business and activities on a downward trend recently, Gross has made it one of his passions to improve Logan and ensure businesses aren't lost and population doesn't dwindle.

"Once you lose businesses and population, then (a town) is dying," he said. "It doesn't take very long for it to be a dead town once that kind of stuff happens."

Something as simple as a 16-foot tall sign depicting a local banker is representative of what local businesses bring to a small community: connectedness.

For years and years, the public knew Jim Wood through the bank, it knew Damian Gross through his various businesses and today it knows Mat Gross through the car wash and his other various community involvements. That's something that can be taken for granted, which is put in perspective by out of town visitors to Logan who are just passing through.

"It doesn't happen every day, but there will be people who stop and take a picture with that great big pointing man," Mat said. "At one time there was a geocache there. My kid plays Pokemon Go and that's a stop. It's a landmark."

Gross has adopted the sign as the official logo of the car wash. It can be seen on prepaid cards, gift cards and other items pertaining to the business.

"It's something to be proud of and something that's unique," he said. "It is my own, and it's something that people remember."

"For years and years, ever since it was put up, no one knew exactly who that face was supposed to be. It was not my dad. It was actually the banker who borrowed my dad the money to put the business up. Local guy, his name is Jim Wood. He was a pretty prominent guy in the community and the area. He was the president and owner of Logan State Bank, which was formerly First National Bank of Logan, which was the name of the bank at the time of the loan."

— **Mat Gross**

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