

FUN News

for

People, Recognition, Enthusiasm, Communication

Panhandle District Monthly News

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Looking Inward

Most of the time, within the office, we deal with things at a surface level. We react to what someone says or what someone hands us. But sometimes what is beneath the surface is truly more interesting, important and enlightening. We need to take a look at what's going on under the surface. We need to explore the "inner office".

What exacting is the "inner office"? On the personal side, it's thoughts and feelings that are often unspoken, but can play a big part in propelling us forward--or getting in our way. On the professional side, it's again the things not obvious at first glance. From unseen files hidden in drawers to systems not quite as efficient as they could be. It's a chance to look at the office from the inside out.

Like most things turned inside out, there are always unexpected surprises. While it's natural, in the midst of our hectic office lives, to feel like there's simply no time to take an inward look, when we do take time good things inevitably happen.

Whether it's better understanding our own attitudes, or reorganizing our systems to better meet our needs, the time it takes actually saves us time later on. What is going on inside affects what is happening outside, both personally and professionally. Taking a deeper look can make us more productive, more in tune and more content.

Hopefully we'll take time to evaluate our "inner office" and find it to be efficient, well organized and totally harmonious.

Great Results - Vol. 7, No. 1

Luck of the Irish

Jeannette Fitzgerald is not moving to Ireland, but she will soon be enjoying her own Blarney Castle. Jeannette is retiring from the University on April 27 after 15 years at the Panhandle Center. She is looking forward to working on her own "emerald isle" (in Gering) and taking life a little slower. -- W.B. Yeats, Irish poet and one of the foremost writers of the 20th century wrote, "The intellect is forced to choose: Perfection of the life, or of the work." Jeannette has chosen both!

Good luck and best wishes in retirement!



Tech Tip

A great way to get the training you need. Go to: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/training/default.aspx>

Choose the Microsoft program you need training on and click on the link. This training is interactive and will walk you through the steps to learn a new task in the program. You can do this training at your own pace so let me say Happy Training.

Provided by Carol Laurent



UNL PREC Walkers

The 10 members of the N-Lighten Nebraska team at the PREC have been walking the halls more lately. Good news is they accumulated 1,390 mile points as a team in February. The leading set of partners is Jenny Larsen and Barb Schlothauer. Together they walked 328 mile points or an average of 5.85 miles daily each. Whether you are one of the "Walkers" or not, feel free to join them. It will give you a boost for the day!

Irish Trivia Quiz

1. Some areas in Ireland receive this many inches of rain each year, which accounts for the brilliantly green grass that has earned Ireland the nickname the "emerald isle":

- a. Sixty inches
- b. Seventy inches
- c. Eighty inches
- d. Ninety inches

2. "Erin Go Braugh", a phrase heard often on St. Patrick's Day, means"

- a. I Love Ireland
- b. Ireland Forever
- c. Brave and Free
- d. Ireland, My Home

3. Today, the prime minister of the Republic of Ireland is:

- a. Frank McCourt
- b. Ian Dunkirk
- c. Bertie Ahern
- d. Gerry Adams

4. With 27,136 square miles of land, the Republic of Ireland is approximately half the size of this U.S. state:

- a. Montana
- b. California
- c. Louisiana
- d. Arkansas

5. Today, this number of Americans trace their ancestry back to Ireland:

- a. Ten million
- b. Twenty-five million
- c. Forty million
- d. Sixty-five million

For additional quiz questions and the history of St. Patrick's Day, go to:

www.historychannel.com/exhibits/stpatricksdays

Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!

We'll return to the Nebraska Panhandle
next month!

Employee in the Know

Entomology Department



Keith Flint

Ag Research Technician

I was born and raised on a small family farm near Lyman, NE, a small town of about 500 about 25 miles west of Scottsbluff (just a half mile from the Wyoming state line). I attended school at Lyman. Being a farm kid, I think I was on a tractor before I could walk and I was hooked. That is all I ever wanted to do and farming is what I planned my college education around.

While in high school I participated in four sports and all the music and other activities that were available. When I was a freshman I met Suzanne, my high school sweetheart. We were married for 36 years before she died of cancer two years ago. We have 3 children, two daughters and one son. Our family also includes four grandchildren with another one on the way this spring.

I attended UNL and received my BS degree in Animal Science (it was my plan to own and operate a large feedlot) and Suzanne got her PHT(put hubby through) degree.

I farmed and fed cattle for 25 years south of Lyman. The farming operation consisted of sugarbeets, dry beans, corn, alfalfa and dry land wheat. I had a small cow herd and fed cattle as well.

Some of the extracurricular activities I have been involved in through the years include: school board member, church board, Scotts Bluff County Farm Bureau board, Nebraska Sugarbeet Growers vice president, and American Sugarbeet Growers board.

The time spent on the American Sugarbeet Growers board was especially gratifying. This was at the time of the NAFTA debate and the time spent with legislators and US Trade officials was profitable for the US sugarbeet growers.

In the early 1990's Suzanne and a friend started a small store in the mall called the Kitchen Company, of which I am still co-owner. It has been interesting watching what was started on a shoestring grow into a thriving business. If you want a good cappuccino or latte, it's the place to go.

I began at PREC in 1996 working primarily with chicory. That evolved into working almost exclusively with sugarbeets. I am now in the Entomology department working with insects in various crops.

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Susan Harvey

Ag Research Technician

I just realized that I am almost to the point where I have lived half of my life in Scottsbluff. In 1985, I began my adventure here and landed a technician position with Dr. Bob Wilson. It was my first taste of the agricultural world (I thought all sugar came from Hawaii!) and I became a farm wife and an Ag researcher all in the same year. I soon discovered that farming was very difficult, complicated and fascinating.

I am originally from Los Angeles, actually, just outside of L.A. in the San Fernando Valley. Yes, I was one of the original "Valley Girls". I had a great time growing up there...lots of beach time (Zuma beach rules!), swimming (we all spent the whole summer pool hopping), snow skiing and water skiing (everything was within an hour's drive). I did many activities in school including gymnastics, drill team, song girls, cheerleading, and I lettered in golf in high school. I also did community theater for about ten years - it was a wonderful experience.

I received my Bachelor's degree from Cal State University, Northridge in biology. My emphasis was in vertebrate biology. My original intent was to go on to grad school at UC, Santa Barbara to study marine ecology. I had a couple of interesting internships while in college. I worked at the Wildlife Waystation, which was a refuge for injured and confiscated animals. It was a very secretive place, not open to the public and was home to over 200 large cats, as well as every other type of vertebrate imaginable. I also worked at Marineland. I was involved in coordinating educational programs and assisted at the animal care center associated with the park. Injured sea mammals and birds came in from as far away as Alaska and I spent a lot of time bottle-feeding walrus and sea lions. You cannot imagine what an ordeal it is to get a blood sample from a dolphin or full-grown sea lion! Every Saturday evening when the park closed, we would get in the tanks and swim with the dolphins. Some of my best memories are from my time at Marineland.

The PREC and my good friends here have been a solid rock for me through many changes in my life. I took a few years off when I had my children and then I came back on a part-time basis, working on a water quality project for Dean Yonts and finally ended up in the entomology department. I had to go from thinking big (killer whales) to thinking small (insects)! These astounding little creatures really captured my attention and I decided to pursue my Master's degree in entomology. Lots of people here know about my classes, because I usually try to include everyone in my suffering. However, I should be wrapping it up sometime this year, and it will be a huge accomplishment in my life. I thoroughly enjoy working with the group in entomology.

Now to my favorite part...my family. My parents followed me out here from California seventeen years ago and they presently live at the Gering golf course. My extended family lives in Norway. I have two children, Logan (a seventeen-year-old junior at SHS) and beautiful Shelby (a fourteen-year-old freshman at SHS). I have fond memories of the baby shower that the PREC gals gave me when I was pregnant with Logan (some of you remember-- Kathy, Marilyn, Lori)...wow time flies. Both of my children are good students. Logan is a golfer on the varsity team and Shelby was a starter for the freshman volleyball team this year. If you see a green Honda with a loud exhaust on the road, tell him to slow down for me! My family increased in size almost three years ago when I married my second husband (wins husband-of-the-year award in my book), Mike Harvey. I told you, there have been some changes. Mike has two sons, Nick (married to Abby) lives and works in Lincoln and Marcus, a senior at Kearney is majoring in education. Mike also has a daughter Rachel. She is a fourteen-year-old eighth grader and is involved in sports, theater and music (takes me back to my old theater days). Between the two girls there is lots of laundry and phone time. It is quite a challenge bringing up teenagers these days, but we have been blessed with wonderful children. Mike and I like to go hiking with our dogs (Basset, Daisy and Beagle, Rascal) and have become HGTV junkies...we like doing home improvements. I love my big group with all of my heart!!! Now that's my story and I'm stickin' to it!

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Gary Hein
Entomologist

I grew up on a dairy farm in northwest Minnesota (Audubon, MN) where there were lots of lakes and trees. We mainly raised corn, wheat, barley, and alfalfa, mostly to support the dairy herd which was ranked in the top 100 herds in Minnesota (DHIA records). Since I was a good size kid for my age I was able to handle the milking machine by about age 10 or 11. At the time I thought this was really cool, but it started my twice a day activity of milking cows which continued every day I was home until I graduated from college -- when my Dad sold the cows. The biggest issue about milking was the 5:30 AM rising to milk before school every day (yes, including those Minnesota winters), as a consequence I am not a morning person! As a kid I did a lot of fishing (in a lake adjoining our farm) and hunting and milking cows. I also was involved with 4H with my major activity that of showing dairy cattle. I enjoyed this and had the opportunity to show cattle at the Minnesota state fair a couple years until that weekend began to conflict with high school football games.

I went to Concordia College in Moorhead, MN where I studied biology, and met my then future wife, Wanda. After graduating, I worked for about two years at the Mayo clinic giving mice cancer and then irradiating them to try to cure them. During this time Wanda attended Mayo Physical Therapy school. After she graduated PT school, I started graduate school at Iowa State Univ. in entomology. Over the next 6-1/2 years I completed my MS and PhD degrees in entomology working endless hours in Iowa cornfields in July and August. The most significant event during this time was the birth of my daughter, Krista, - as my statistics professor put it, we began our 'progeny testing'.

After finishing at Iowa State, I took a Post Doc position at South Dakota State in Brookings for a couple years. Our son, Jordan, was born while we where in Brookings, and we were lucky he was not born on the Interstate between Brookings and Sioux Falls. After SDSU, I was fortunate to land this faculty position at Scottsbluff and have been here for 18 years now. Through these years, we have been busy raising our children. Krista was married last summer to Kyle Walter and they live near Omaha while Krista is finishing her last year at Dana College. Jordan is completing his sophomore year at South Dakota School of Mining and

Technology, but his plans are to change schools as, thus far, he has learned that he does not want to be an engineer. I guess that is progress!

I continue to enjoy fishing, and have learned under the tutelage of John Smith to be a decent fly fisher. I enjoy several outdoor activities, and now with Jordan's expert advice, I have been trying to break my streak of 25 years with no improvement in my golf game - it might be working!

I have been fortunate while here at UNL to have a very good group of professionals (both faculty and staff) to work with. I especially appreciate my support staff as we have been able to accomplish much, and I hope they are as proud of our accomplishments as I am of their contributions.

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Rick Patrick
Ag Research Technician

I was born in Branson, Missouri and raised in Nebraska graduating from high school at Alliance, in 1979. I attended Chadron State College graduating in 1985 with a degree in biology. After college I attended the Northwest Institute of Taxidermy in Janesville, Wisconsin. I worked at the Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Nebraska as a range technician for three summers and at the Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge, Martin, South Dakota as a biological science technician for 1 season. I operated a taxidermy shop on 10th Street in Gering from 1988 until I was bought out to make room for the Gering Civic Center. I moved the shop home and operated it out of a converted garage for several more years until I got too busy with kids and hobbies to continue. I came to work at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in April of 1989 in the entomology department .

I met my wife, Lydia, while working at the Crescent Lake NWR in 1985. We were married in October 1989. Lydia has worked for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for nearly 20 years and has been at the Complex office of the Crescent Lake/North Platte NWR Complex since November of 1992. Lydia keeps busy coordinating activities for the kids. She is a Co-Leader of Girl Scout Troop 6, Treasurer of the Scottsbluff Federated Wrestling Club and on the Shooting Sports Committee for Scotts Bluff County 4-H. In my spare time I enjoy hunting and fishing. I recently took up the hobby of

rock hunting and have ventured to places I might never have seen if not for this hobby!

Lydia and I have two children: Tyler, age 13 and Megan, age 11. Both kids currently attend Bluffs Middle School where Tyler participates in wrestling and football and plays in the band. Megan participates in choir and plans to play both volleyball and basketball next year as a 7th grader. Outside of school, Tyler and Megan both participate in 4-H projects: shooting sports, taxidermy, clothing, cooking, art and, of course, both kids have completed entomology exhibits for the fair!! Tyler is very active with the West Nebraska 4-H Trap Club at the Junior High level and spends as many hours as possible hunting with me at our place on the North Platte River. The performer in our family, Megan, has participated in the Oregon Trail/Platte Valley Children's Choirs for three years as well as singing in the children's choir at the First Presbyterian Church. Megan has been a Girl Scout for 4 years and enjoys spending time with friends learning life skills.

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John Thomas
Research Coordinator

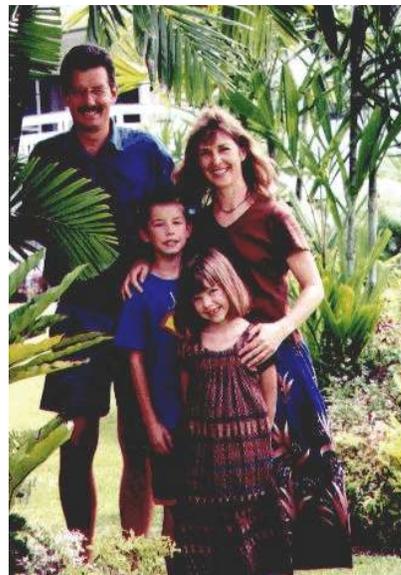
My great grandfather Valentine Thomas homesteaded north of Morrill, NE in the late 1880's. His sod house was moved and renovated and is now displayed at the North Platte Valley Museum in Gering. My mother and father were both raised around Morrill. My father served in WWII, went to college, married and farmed for several years. My parents then moved to Colorado and dad was a mechanical engineer for the Bureau of Reclamation. I was born and raised in Evergreen Colorado west of Denver in the mountains. Growing up in the mountains gave me a great opportunity to climb, hike, camp, ski, hunt, fish and generally enjoy the outdoors. I was on a mountain rescue team in junior high and high school which was a good opportunity to learn mountaineering skills.

I graduated from Evergreen High School in 1976 and went on to Colorado State University and graduated with a degree in Forestry and Range Management. While at CSU I became a Christian which is the most important event in my life. After college I did not land a job in forestry or range management and worked for a private telephone company in the Denver area servicing and installing business telephone systems.

In 1986 I had the opportunity to go to Ethiopia and work with a church relief organization. We built dams, carried out food for work programs and drilled water wells for rural villages. During the time of my work in East Africa and on several trips to and from this area I had opportunity to visit other African countries, Israel and many European countries. In 1987 I climbed Kilimanjaro which was a lot of fun. Living and working in Ethiopia for three years gave me a greater appreciation for how tough life is for people in other parts of the world.

After returning from Africa in 1989 I started another life adventure called marriage and family. I met my wife Deb at church in Fort Collins, Colorado. She is a ranch girl from Pinedale Wyoming. In August 1991 we were married and in March of 1992 we moved to Western Nebraska. I farmed with my brother north of Morrill for one year to get some agricultural experience and in April 1993 I started my job with Gary Hein in the Entomology department at PREC. In 2001 I completed a Masters degree in entomology from UNL with Gary as my advisor. I have enjoyed my work and opportunities here over the years and the people I've been privileged to work with.

Our son Andrew was born in 1994 and our daughter Lauren in 1997. My family and I enjoy rural life, are active in our church and go to the mountains of Colorado or Wyoming whenever we get a chance to hike, climb, canoe, etc. One of my goals is to climb all the 14 thousand foot peaks in the State of Colorado (54). So far I have done 24 and my family has accompanied me on many of them. I thank God for my family, and a life of opportunity and adventure and look forward to many more.



With my family in Papua New Guinea, Christmas 2003.

UNL Extension - Sioux County



Aaron Cross
Office Manager

I was born and raised in Nebraska and needless to say haven't gotten very far away from home! I was born in Scottsbluff and grew up on a ranch northwest of Harrison. We raised a very mixed cow herd and quarter horses. This place belongs to my grandpa and originally belonged to one of my great-great grandfathers.

We do things on the ranch as old fashioned as possible. We do hay with newer equipment, but move cattle and brand the old fashioned way. We also build windmill towers, custom fence, process other peoples' cattle and day work to bring in extra income.

I have a brother, Tee, a sister, Andie, and a sister-in-law, Abbie. Tee and Abbie have been married for about 1-1/2 years now and my parents, Faron and Wanda, have been married for about 29 years. My siblings and I have all attended Sioux County High. I had one of the larger classes to ever attend - there was 18 of us (I know that's not really big at all, but for Harrison it is!). I graduated in 1997, Tee in 1999, and Andie is a junior this year.

All of us enjoy to rodeo. This is my only hobby - I love to rope! You know you're a hick when you rope your dummy bundled up in the winter! I tried barrel racing and goat tying for a while, but that didn't last long (I've never been skinny or athletic). Tee is currently trying the pro rodeo circuit in the calf roping. Andie is still high school rodeoing, while the rest of the family enters amateur rodeos and jackpots when possible.

I attended college at Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington and finally walked away with a computer technology certificate. Even though I do have this certificate, I'm not nearly as smart as Jenny on such matters!

Shortly after college I worked on a ranch for about a year near Pavillion, WY. My bosses owned lots of horses that they leased to dudes in the summer and outfitters and hunters in the fall. I loved my job, but missed home. When a teacher's aide position opened at a rural school northeast of Harrison, I hightailed it for home.

After working two years at the school (which is where I attended grade school by the way) and doing day work at local ranches, as well as working at the local museum during the summer, I finally got my extension office job.

I've been here about 2-1/2 years and have 'suffered' through 3 fairs. I have enjoyed lots of different aspects of this job and have learned a lot. I also enjoy working with the kids and I feel I have a good relationship with them (of course I've known most of them since they were babies). Maybe they just tolerate me at this point!

I live by myself, unless you count my 6 month old dog. Digger gets to come in the house (something that never happened when we were kids) and she's good company. Digger is not my only pet (just the only one that gets to be in the house once in a while). Lefty, my horse, has been my companion for 15 years now and is the one I still rope on.

All in all I've really enjoyed my experiences and this job. I've learned a lot, including what I can and can not say at the office - for more details on that, ask Jamie. She's had to get after me a few times!



Wanda, Faron, Aaron, Andie, Abbie, Tee



Tee (Bug), Abbie (Darla) Andie (Tardy)
and Aaron (Lefty)



Jenny Nixon
Extension Educator

This is my story OR (What I did this summer) -- Sorry, that's what this feels like. I have to say I have enjoyed reading those mini-bios from others so thought I should take the time to contribute also.

I have referred to myself as "nearly native" (Nebraskan, that is) for a long time. I can never be truly a native Nebraskan as I did not arrive here until I was in 4th grade. I was born in Gunnison, CO (because Crested Butte, where we lived, did not have a hospital) on a snowy January 15 backwards and blue. The physician, not ready for a breech delivery did not have time to consult his medical texts because I was in such a hurry to arrive.

As a baby, my parents have assured me that I was perfect. Having no other input, it will stand as true. Life was good living in the coldest spot in the US for a few years. My father worked for the US Forest Service as a Forest Ranger on the Gunnison National Forest. Then along came my brother. Life was less lonely then if somewhat more frustrating at times.

A transfer caused our family to move to Wyoming. My father became the Forest Ranger on the Shoshone National Forest. We lived in Powell, WY in the winter. I attended private kindergarten in Mrs. Bovee's converted garage. We summered at the Sunlight Basin Ranger Station driving over Dead Indian Pass (before it was paved) to get to the ranger station located in the shadow of the Absaroka Mountains. It was a real wilderness home then as there were few neighbors and none with kids. My brother and I would beg our parents to visit the Crandall Ranger Station where the fire outlook tower was manned by a family with kids our age. It did not happen very often but was a great treat to have friends to play with and be at the top of the fire lookout tower.

My mother kept a close watch on my brother and I as the wildlife was large and at-large. The moose in particular spent lots of time around our house. I can remember my mother getting really concerned as the moose could jump a six foot fence and when calves were present, the mother moose were not very friendly. I used to cower under my covers at night because the bears would attempt to break into the garbage cans under cover of darkness. The cans were secured but we could hear them banging the metal cans with their paws in attempts to get access.

Horses were a part of life at the ranger station. I started to learn how to ride and can remember many wrecks. We had a bay horse name I ke that didn't always listen to little kids. From then on, we were launched into the world of horses.

After only a few years in Wyoming, we moved back to Colorado again. This time, my father was working out of the regional Forest Service office in Denver. We lived in Evergreen, now basically a suburb of Denver. We stayed there for almost four years. Skiing became a big part of my life. I skied nearly every winter weekend at a small ski area - Squaw Pass. Dad was on the ski patrol. Sometimes my brother would come along and we entertained ourselves with skiing or building snow forts with other kids. Many times I went alone with my dad. Since he was working, I had to entertain myself. The only problem I had was I was too small to ride the T-Bar by myself. It would flip me around and drag me up the hill as I could not apply my weight well enough to make it perform its function. In order to get up the hill, I would go through the line of people waiting to ride the lift asking, "Are you single?", hoping to get someone to take pity on me and help me get to the top of the run. Hindsight sure makes that memory a funny one! It explains all the funny looks I got. I enjoyed skiing and did it well for the few years we were at Evergreen. Once we moved to Nebraska, I never skied downhill again. I did try cross country once but haven't ever really cared to take up the sport again.

Instead, the move to Nebraska brought new and exciting opportunities. My family moved just south of Chadron next to Chadron State Park. My brother and I were enrolled at Prairie Home District 69 country school. It wasn't quite the one room school house. It was two rooms and grew to three. The rural school format with spelling bees, track meets, Pom Pom Pull Away in the pasture at recess was new and exciting. Rivalry was fierce between the four members in my class.

My family had a small acreage along Chadron Creek. Swimming at the park and the 4-H program filled my time with great activities and learning. Horses were always in the mix. We bred a few mares and I worked up from just riding my old gelding to breaking and training colts for the Greenbroke classes at fair. We raised calves and I learned to figure rations and calculate rates of gain. I participated in speech and demonstration contests every year until I could do both well enough to win the trophy. The competition was stiff in all the areas I participated in. I didn't win many

trophies in the 4-H program, but each one I won, I earned. I worked over my 4-H career to win the trophy in public speaking, demonstration, horse showmanship, greenbroke colt, trail horse, and reining horse. I attended State Fair for livestock judging or to participate in demonstrations, National 4-H Congress in Chicago in the horse area, became a Girls State delegate from Chadron High School, and finally graduated from CHS with honors.

By the time I was a senior in high school, my family sold the acreage by Chadron State Park and bought a ranch just south of Whitney. That winter was one of record snows. The plows gave up trying to open the county road after winds would blow it shut each night and the trough got to be taller than the plow. We fed livestock using horses pulling a sled. We walked a mile in the snow (not barefoot, though) to reach the car each day to get to school until the weather finally broke in March. We lived in an old farmhouse with one old oil stove. We added a wood burning stove for supplemental heat but that meant we were always cutting wood to keep warm. As a teenager, it certainly seemed like an adventure to me.

When the time came to choose a college, I knew that I wanted to be far enough away that I wouldn't have to come home and do the chores. So I chose the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I got my BS in Animal Science with a Production option in four years. I made many great connections among the people I met in college. I was a member of the Block & Bridle club which was a powerful and dynamic organization at that time. In addition to organizing educational and competitive events and raising funds, we lobbied the legislature on issues. B&B members from that time period can be found all over the state in positions of power and influence.

During the summers I started to really get excited about the history of the area. I worked for the Game and Parks Commission at Fort Robinson as a wrangler giving trail rides. The first week of work all the employees got to know each other by sharing each other's jobs. While taking the other employees on a trail ride, I noticed a guy who did not look too happy to be riding along. The horse did not seem to be too overjoyed either. I rode over and asked Sam's rider about himself. He was Dave Nixon, Superintendent of the Trailside Museum at Fort Robinson. We got to know each other a little bit during the next few years.

Tourists were always interesting to talk to and they always asked a lot of questions. I took it upon myself to know the answers whether cultural or natural history.

People were interested in the flowers. So I bought my first flower book to get acquainted with all the local flora. Both my parents had a good background in nature and I learned much from them. However, this was the time I started to really grow interested in the native plants.

As a wrangler I participated in the Black Bart skit at the chuckwagon cookouts. Two wranglers would dress up as Black Bart and the Sheriff and then ride into the cookout area. The sheriff always had to stop Black Bart from robbing the cookout. It ended in a great shoot out (we used .22s) and the sheriff chased BB away on horseback. Sometimes we changed the script. You never knew what would happen! We also had to entertain people at the weekly rodeo. I pulled the hide. Being a horseman, I wouldn't deign to ride the hide. In my spare time I entered the Crawford 4th of July queen contest - and won!

I switched from pushing dudes to working for the State Historical Society at Fort Robinson and really got a solid background in area history. I participated in many historical re-enactments and enjoyed all of them. When there were not enough soldiers, I donned a blue wool cavalry uniform and helped fire the cannon in the evenings. The final week of the season, I was court martialed for being a female in the 1880s army (against regs). I was dressed in more appropriate clothing and escorted off the Fort grounds. So ended my time in the military.

My first professional job was as the Extension 4-H Assistant in Scotts Bluff County. I spent a few years there but then decided I wanted to go back to school to obtain my MS in Range Management. I took a part time Extension Assistant position in Sioux County and made arrangements to get my course work started. I worked with Dr. Pat Reece as my graduate advisor and did my research on Prairie Sandreed in Sioux County. After completing my degree, I came back to Sioux County with a fresh perspective. I think the animal science and range management are a good mix in this county. Don't ask me how the technology came about. That was all learned out of necessity and on my own.

I finally married that guy I met on the trail ride. We have lots in common yet many differences in the way we think. Being a geologist and paleontologist, Dave thinks grass just covers up rocks. But his geologic viewpoint has taught me how to view the landscape with a broader view. And I have gotten him to try learning more (and even tasting) those native plants. I am always trying to learn more about the historic uses of plants.

We lived north of Harrison for a few years. We eventually moved to Crawford where we now reside. We have two wonderful, outgoing children. Rachel is 10 going on 20. She enjoys dance and has her dad's artistic talent. Nathaniel turned 8, February 24 and is following Dave's UNL varsity wrestling career already. We are working on teaching the horsemanship and love of nature that Dave and I both share. I am blessed to have such a wonderful family and to work with such a great group of people who inspire me to do and learn so much.

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Thank you

A special "thank you" to all the individuals who have shared their personal stories. It has been exciting getting your articles to include each month. I would also like to express appreciation for the positive comments that have been expressed concerning this newsletter. This is a fun project, although the first of each month comes much too soon! Remember YOUR turn is coming so be writing your story now -- NO is not an acceptable answer! For those of you who will be heading to the fields soon, please feel free to write your story now and send via email for future articles this summer.

Sharon Holman - sholman1@unl.edu

PREC Staff Advisory Committee

Irish Quiz Answers

1. d - Ninety inches
2. b - Ireland Forever
3. c - Bertie Ahern
4. d - Arkansas
5. c - Forty million

Additional Irish Trivia:

Corned beef has been around for centuries, but the St. Paddy's Day tradition of serving it with cabbage is almost as American as apple pie.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers to reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

In modern-day Ireland, St. Patrick's Day has traditionally been a religious occasion. In fact, up until the 1970s, Irish laws mandated that pubs be closed on March 17. -- (So does that mean "green beer" is American too?)

Source: The History Channel