

The Hastings Senior Times™

A Weekly Publication for Seniors.

April 28, 2003 - Vol. 1 No. 5

P.O. Box 1361, Hastings, NE 68902

Elevator Still Operating After 120 Years

by Andrew Callahan, Editor

If grain elevators could talk, the one at the corner of South Street and Lincoln Avenue, that now houses Adams County Feed and Grain, could tell us a lot. Manager Elmer Heeren recently gave me a tour of the building, pointing out the beams, rafters and other construction elements that hint at its age. "I think it was built in the late 1800s, and it's been in use ever since. That's our elevator to the top," he said, pointing to a wooden ladder on the wall." Elmer is an energetic, friendly, and outgoing man of 76. A lifelong area resident, he remembers coming with his father to the Hastings Mill from the family's Glenvil farm. "I remember this elevator was here, and the Mill was just two blocks east of here."

Elmer was right about the age of the building. Research at the Adams County Historical Society helped me determine that the elevator was probably built in the 1880s. But, what Elmer couldn't possibly remember was that the elevator had originally been built three blocks east of its current location, and was for many years on the other side of Hastings Mill. A December 1928 newspaper account refers to the elevator as a "landmark" and describes its rapid deconstruction at the old location, noting that it will be rebuilt, weather permitting, at its new location by the beginning of 1929. The article also places the elevator's construction at around 1883, which is just a decade or so after the founding of Hastings.

Another source shows that the elevator was owned by H.M. Oliver by 1888, where he also sold coal. Oliver was active in the grain business in the area, building grain elevators in Glenvil and Hansen in 1878 and 1880. He was also elected a vestryman



The 1880's era grain elevator shown from the side, where C & NW rail cars were loaded. At its earlier location on the St. Joe & GI, its elevator and mixing operations were originally powered by horses.

at St. Mark's Church in Hastings in 1880. Oliver was a prominent citizen in the very early days of the city, and my guess would be that he built this elevator at St. Joe & South.

The elevator has had many owners and tenants in its 120 years. The 1928 article hinted that there had been a dozen or more owners in the first 45 years. Adams County Feed and Grain (ACF&G) has been there 30 years, and may be the longest continuous tenant in the building's history.

ACF&G owner Bob Asmus, who has farmed in the area for most of his 69 years remembers several of the owners. "My uncle Morris Asmus ran it in the 30's. He sold out to Kermit Huyck. Then it was in the Huyck family for years." Bob also recalled that a group of five local farmers working through the National Farmers Organization operated the elevator for a while.

When the elevator was rebuilt at its current location in 1928 it left its spot on the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad to be on the Chicago and Northwestern line. Grain elevators have historically been adjacent to railroads. "They used to load directly onto rail cars. The last load of five cars of white corn left from this elevator sometime in the 70's," recalled Bob. Another railroad tie is that before joining ACF&G 20 years ago, Elmer worked for 25 years with what is now the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, starting when it was known as the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy.

The elevator's capacity, variously listed in old documents as between eight and 12 thousand bushels is tiny by comparison to modern elevators such as those on the south side of Hastings that can house more than 20 million bushels. "We have some corn and some milo stored here," said Elmer. "We still grind some corn, and we used to mix feeds and supplements, but we're mostly a pet feed store now. Of course we have dog and cat food, also rabbit and some other things. I still make our bird feed, and we carry chicken feed too," said Elmer. "We've built our business on specialties. If I didn't have it, I'd get it. And, I wouldn't get just one bag, I'd get two." They also carry organic fertilizers and various types of bedding for animals.

ACF&G is closed Tuesdays and Thursdays and Sundays.

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Community Calendar

*See Calendar Key below for abbreviations

(Readers may wish to verify event time & location.)

If you wish to have something placed on our Community Calendar, please mail it to: Calendar Coordinator, The Hastings Senior Times, PO Box 1361, Hastings, NE 68902-1361 at least three weeks prior to event. Or, send e-mail to: calendar@hastingstimes.com (no attachments please.)

Daily – Shuffleboard 12:45 p.m. - **GFC**

Thru May 9 – Hastings Art Club Art Show, **HM**

Thru June 9 – Film - "Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West," **HM**

Thru Sep 8 – Film - "Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees," **HM**

Thru June 2 – "Sun Spotting," Planetarium, **HM**

Apr 28 – Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (men's music fraternity) Concert, 8 p.m., Perkins Auditorium, **HC**

Apr 29 – Sinfonia Concert, 8 p.m., Perkins Auditorium, **HC**

May 1-4 – Dinner Theatre "Twelfth Night" by Wm Shakespeare. Dinner at 6:30pm, Th-Sa & 12:30 p.m. Sun. **HC** (Reservations req. day before by 4 pm - Res. for Sun. req. by Fri. 4 pm - Box Office - 461-7380, hours M-F 12-5 pm)

May 2 – Hastings Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., Chautauqua Pavilion/Prospect Park, 7:30 pm, Free - featuring "Peter and the Wolf." 461-7362

May 3 – South Central Nebraska Children's Chorale performance, 7:30 p.m., French Chapel, **HC** 461-7448

May 4 – Hastings Band Festival, 5 p.m., Chautauqua Pavilion, 5th & Laird. 461-7448

May 5 – Cancer Support Grp Mtg, 7 pm YWCA, 604 N St. Joe.

May 6 – Men's Choir, Jazz Choir & HC Singers, 8 p.m., Perkins Auditorium, **HC**

May 6 – Stroke of Luck Club - 3:30 pm - **ML** - 461-5763

May 7 – Family Caregiver Support Mtg. - 3:00 pm **GFC**

May 7 – Bipolar & Depression Support - 7:00 pm **ML** 462-4014

May 8 – Music Theatre Ensemble, 8 pm, Perkins Auditorium, **HC**

May 9 – League of Women Voters Meeting, 11:45 a.m., YWCA, 604 N. St. Joe. 402-462-8821

May 9 – Family Friday **HM** 5:30 p.m., pizza, museum viewing & large-format film, "Adrenaline Rush, The Science of Fear" (reservations required)

May 9-11 – Craft Show, Imperial Mall, 462-6671

May 10 – Commencement, Central Community College, East Hwy 6. 461-2479

May 10 – Star Gazing, 9:30 p.m., Sachtleben Observatory of **HC** 4725 S. Wabash Ave. Call for schedule changes 462-7378

May 10-11 – "SUPER-MOM" Celebration, **HM**

May 11 – Hastings College Choir at 1st Presbyterian Church, 8:00pm., 621 N. Lincoln. 461-7448

May 12 – Senior Tea & Tour, 9 a.m., **HM** with refreshments, planetarium show, museum, and film "Adrenaline Rush, The Science of Fear" (reservations required)

May 12 – Alzheimer's/Dementia Information Session, 6:30 p.m. The Homestead, 12th & Sycamore. 461-3841

May 13 – Blood Pressure Checks, 8:30-9:30 Imperial Mall, 462-6671

Calendar Key

GFC = Golden Friendship Center 463-4439

HM = Hastings Museum 461-4629

HC = Hastings College 461-7448

ML = Mary Lanning Medical Services Building

The Hastings Senior Times™ welcomes your letters. Editor, The Hastings Senior Times, PO Box 1361, Hastings, NE 68902 or via e-mail: editor@hastingstimes.com.

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High Blood Pressure Causes No Symptoms

You can have high blood pressure (HBP) and still feel just fine. That's because HBP does not cause symptoms. But, HBP (sometimes called hypertension) is a major health problem. If not treated, it can lead to stroke, heart disease, kidney failure, and other health problems. The good news is that there are ways you can prevent and control HBP.

What Is HBP? As blood flows from your heart to your blood vessels, it pushes against the walls of your blood vessels. This pressure is measured in millimeters of mercury (mmHg). The reading often is recorded as two numbers—the pressure while the heart beats (systolic pressure) over the pressure while the heart relaxes between

beats (diastolic pressure). The numbers are written one above or before the other. The systolic number comes first, or on top, and the diastolic number comes second, or on the bottom.

Normal blood pressure is less than 130 mmHg systolic and less than 85 mmHg diastolic (130/85 or lower). Doctors will say your blood pressure is too high when it measures 140/90 mmHg or higher over time.

People who have blood pressure in the range of 130-139/85-89 mmHg may be at risk of developing HBP. If your blood pressure measures in this range, you should think about making lifestyle changes to improve your blood pressure.

-National Institute on Aging

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