

NDA Sponsors Annual Ag Poster Contest

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Director Greg Ibach has announced the beginning of the 12th annual NDA Agriculture Week in Nebraska Poster Contest. The contest is open to all Nebraska youth currently in first through sixth grades. This year's theme is "A Day on the Farm."

"Agriculture is Nebraska's number one industry. It is important for young students to understand the key role farmers and ranchers play in our everyday lives," said Ibach. "Through the years, we've heard from numerous teachers that this contest opens the door for conversations with students about food, fiber and fuel production."

The contest entry deadline is March 2. The winners will be announced during National Ag Week (the week of March 16).

The contest is divided into three age categories:

- First and second grade students;
- Third and fourth grade students; and
- Fifth and sixth grade students.

Winning entries will be featured on the NDA website and potentially in promotional materials and other publications.

Contest rules and official entry forms are available online at www.nda.nebraska.gov/kids. Contest questions can be directed to Christin Kamm at (402) 471-6856 or by email at christin.kamm@nebraska.gov.

A Ride Through History

Train Linking West Coast With Chicago Was Also A SD Staple

From the SD Historical Society Foundation

The tall prairie grass would have rolled like waves sweeping across a windy bay.

Stan Johnson imagined how the wind would have swept the prairie grass 100 years earlier as he traveled near Milbank on a passenger train.

In 1941, Johnson's parents allowed him to travel alone from Chicago to Tacoma, Washington, on the Olympian, one of America's greatest luxury trains of pre-World War II days. Johnson's stepfather was a conductor on the Olympian and, although he was only 13, Johnson had already made many trips by train from the West Coast to Chicago. Johnson described the journey in "The Milwaukee Road Olympian: A Ride to Remember," published by the Museum of North Idaho.

The Olympian was operated by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad (the Milwaukee Road) between Chicago and the Pacific Northwest. It featured elegant air-conditioned cars, comfortable berths and gourmet dining. The Olympian entered South Dakota near Big Stone City about 5 hours after pulling out of the St. Paul Union Station at 8:40 a.m. Central Time, according to one of the book's reproduced timetables.

The many Irish and Dutch families who settled near Milbank raised grain and built windmills that ground grain into flour. By the time Johnson traveled through Milbank, the sole windmill stood in the center of town as a historical monument.

The Olympian traveled past Webster, Bristol, Andover, Groton and Bath, all known as "10-mile towns" because of the spacing between sidings, Johnson wrote.

Johnson realized the area through which the train was passing had once been prime buffalo hunting country. Now Johnson saw migratory birds, and hoped in vain to see coyotes and pheasants.

The Olympian pulled into Ab-



COURTESY PHOTO
This vintage Moberly postcard depicts the Lakota dancers who entertained passengers of the Olympian when the train stopped at the northern South Dakota community.

erdeen's brick depot on time at 3:50 p.m. and stopped for 10 minutes as train and engine crews were changed.

"The place was planned as a railroad town and had fulfilled expectations," Johnson wrote.

"There was a train in or out of the city every 18 minutes in 1920. West of town were Milwaukee-run stockyards for cattle, sheep and hogs, and in town there was a large freight yard and engine terminal facilities, including a roundhouse."

Four railroads went through Aberdeen in 1941, and branch lines radiated from the city.

At Ipswich, a town that had once led the nation in the shipping of bison bones that were used for fertilizer, the grade began to climb. A small geological marker near Selby noted the edge of the Great American Desert and the beginning of the true West. Johnson's plans for this trip's introduction to the West began in Moberly.

During summers in the 1930s and 1940s, Lakota dancers met the Olympian when it made a 12-minute stop at Moberly. It became an event eagerly anticipated by train passengers.

"The Indians dressed in the most gorgeous of ceremonial outfits: full eagle-feathered headdresses, buckskin fringed leggings and skirts with beadwork, small bells and porcupine quills sewn in intricate designs, and exquisite handmade moccasins with still more beadwork on their feet," Johnson wrote.

The group would dance several short dances to the beat of a small drum that one of the children would play.

"It was exciting to be there close to them and to witness something unquestionably genuine and real. It was like someone operating a window back into history," Johnson stated.

After leaving the depot at Moberly, Johnson looked down into the yellow-

brown water of the Missouri River as Olympian crossed the Missouri River bridge. The first train steamed across the bridge in March 1908.

"The trusses of the bridge, angled for strength, slipped past the window on an oblique pathway that caused them to appear to be moving first up and then down, almost as though they were involved in some sort of rhythmic dance. The bridge was long, nearly as long as 10 football fields laid end to end, so there was plenty of time to enjoy the experience," Johnson wrote.

Johnson realized that the Missouri River divided the state into two different areas: the prairie grassland of the west side and the crop farming of the east side. He also noted that South Dakota landscape could be characterized as being one of two types. "Either it is gently rolling grassy plains with low rounded hills, or a harsher, sterner countryside of hills and gullies eroded by the sun and wind and water, watched over by higher and sharper hills."

The Olympian reached Lemmon at 7:30 p.m. Mountain Time.

"The town and countryside looked like a movie Western gunfight set, but historically Lemmon had been known as one of the places where ranchers raising sheep and cattle and those farming got along especially well," Johnson wrote.

The Olympian soon entered North Dakota, and Johnson continued on his memorable ride to Tacoma. Johnson became, among other things, an elevator operator, a newspaper reporter and an academic psychologist. But mostly, he remained a man who knew and loved railroads.

This moment in South Dakota history is provided by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society. Find us on the web at www.sdhsf.org. Contact us at info@sdhsf.org to submit a story idea.

OBITUARIES

Thresa Cunningham

Thresa Cunningham, 82, of Aberdeen, passed away Friday, February 13, 2015, at Avera Mother Joseph Manor Retirement Community in Aberdeen.



Cunningham

Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:00 a.m. Thursday, February 19, 2015, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 409 3rd Avenue SE, Aberdeen, with Father Melvin Kuhn, Celebrant.

Burial will take place at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Aberdeen.

Schriver's Memorial Mortuary & Crematory, 414 5th Avenue NW, Aberdeen, is in charge of arrangements.

Visitation will be one hour prior to Mass at church on Thursday.

Thresa Hartzte was born on July 27, 1932, in Greenway, SD, to Mathias and Regina (Aberle) Hartzte. She attended country school in McPherson County and then began working at various restaurants in Linton and Strasburg, ND.

Thresa was united in marriage to Lloyd Cunningham on November 27, 1965, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Aberdeen. Their family was made complete with the addition of her stepson, Louie. They made their home in Yankton, SD, for several years before moving to Aberdeen. While living in Aberdeen, Thresa was actively involved as a volunteer for the Foster Grandparent Program. In 2013, she became a resident of Avera Mother Joseph Manor Retirement Community, where she remained until the time of her death.

Thresa loved spending time outdoors tending to her garden and also enjoyed baking. She especially loved being a Foster Grandparent.

Grateful to have shared in Thresa's life are her siblings: Peter (Doris) Hartzte of Little Falls, MN, Evelyn Hartzte of Minneapolis, MN, Mary Renner of Bismarck, ND, Eliza-

Ella Roth

Funeral services for Ella Roth, 92, of Tripp, South Dakota will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 21, 2015 at Emmaus Lutheran Church in Tripp. Burial will follow in the Gracehill Cemetery, Tripp.

Visitation will be held on Friday, February 20 at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tripp from 5:00 p.m. until a 7:00 p.m. prayer service there.

Ella passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at Walker Gail-Avera Bormann Manor in Parkston. Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Goglin Funeral Home of Tripp.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com/.

Ella Roth was born on Thursday, March 9, 1922 to Emanuel and Amelia (Buchholz) Wormsbecher on the family farm near Avon, South Dakota. On June 7, 1942, Ella was united in marriage to Walter Roth at Emmaus Lutheran Church

in Tripp. Together they made their home nine miles southwest of Tripp where Walter would farm his entire life. Ella was baptized on May 16, 1948 at Emmaus Lutheran Church, where they would be lifelong members.

Ella was a hard-worker, who took great pride in fulfilling her duties as a farmwife, housewife, and mother. She was neat and tidy, a perfectionist in her household work that was seen in her quilting, patching, and bright whites. She loved quilting, embroidery, and crocheting and also enjoyed bingo.

Ella passed away on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at Walker Gail-Avera Bormann Manor in Parkston having attained the age of 92 years, 11 months, and 3 days.

She is survived and remembered by her three children: Marcine (Allen) Schoenfish of Menno, LeRoy (Judy) Roth of Tripp, and Myron (Diane) Roth of Tea; seven grandchildren: Ann (Justin) Verba, Scott

(Terah) Schoenfish, Sherri Schoenfish, Steven Schoenfish, Ryan (Amanda) Roth, Fawn (Chris) Vogt, and Cody (Angie) Roth; fourteen great-grandchildren; and brother Harvey Wormsbecher of Tripp.

She was preceded in death by her husband Walter Roth in 2013, her parents, two brothers: Clarence and Elmer, and six sisters: Esther, Lillian, Hulda, Lorraine, Ruth, and Julia.

Any undesignated gifts of memorial funds will be directed to the American Diabetes Association.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
 February 17, 2015

Goglin Funeral Home

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www.goglinfh.com

Robert 'Bob' Warren

Memorial services for Robert "Bob" D. Warren, 93, of Yankton, South Dakota will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2015 at Legacy Burial & Cremation Solutions, 1014 W 8th Ave., Yankton, South Dakota.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service.

Bob passed away on Monday, February 16, 2015 at Avera-Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Loseke officiating. Burial will be at St. Michael's cemetery in Hartington.

Visitation will be on Sunday, Feb. 22, at the Wintz Fu-

neral Home in Hartington from 2-4 p.m. with a Vigil at 3 p.m. Visitation will continue on Monday at church one hour prior to services.



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Apps. For Conservation Innovation Grants Sought

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that applications are being accepted for up to \$20 million in grants to facilitate the creation of new, innovative markets for carbon credits, providing additional revenue sources for producers to use to address natural resource conservation challenges.

These grants are part of the Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) program, authorized through the 2014 Farm Bill.

"USDA has been a leader in supporting market-based solutions to improve water quality and reduce carbon pollution," Secretary Vilsack said. "With this opportunity, we are supporting the next generation of projects that will help mature these markets and bring them to scale to benefit both producers and the environment."

For 2015, approximately half of the \$20 million is available for environmental markets and conservation finance projects that engage agricultural producers. In past years, CIG has helped fund the development of the basic infrastructure of these markets.

This year, USDA, through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is seeking applications for projects that will build on these efforts by maturing and scaling markets and accelerating efforts to leverage private

capital and investment in private lands conservation. Improved quantification tools, multi-resource crediting and projects that substantively engage corporate or financial partners are the types of activities NRCS is pursuing.

Applications from this funding pool may also emphasize expected benefits to historically underserved producers, veterans and organic producers. Applications in the fields of economics and sociology as they relate to natural resources are also being welcomed.

Under CIG, Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds are used to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or nongovernmental organizations, tribes or individuals.

The 2014 Farm Bill also included language that has led to some changes in this year's CIG funding announcement. One change eliminates the requirement that half the applicant's match be in cash. Another expands eligibility for the 10 percent set-aside provision for historically underserved producers. As in prior years, NRCS will accept pre-proposals for initial review before inviting entities to submit full proposals.

Pre-proposals are due Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015. To apply electronically, visit <http://www.grants.gov/>.

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