

Lincoln Loves Breakfast



COURTESY PHOTO

"We Love Breakfast" was a week-long theme at Lincoln School during the week of March 2-6. Leading the events was Lincoln's breakfast cook, Deb Hausman. Special events were planned each day to stress the importance of eating a hearty breakfast at school.

Debate

From Page 1

Then: Insurers could deny coverage to people with health conditions or charge them higher premiums.

Now: Insurers can't ask about someone's medical history. But they can charge smokers more.

Then: Health insurance was available to most people, but the government didn't require them to have it.

Now: The law requires nearly all Americans to have coverage, either through an employer, a government program or by buying their own policies. The uninsured risk IRS fines.

Then: In April 2010, 46 percent had a favorable view of the law, while 40 percent had an unfavorable opinion, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation tracking poll.

Now: Naysayers have an edge. Forty-three percent have an unfavorable opinion, while 41 percent have a favorable view, according to Kaiser's latest poll.

About 3 in 5 said the law has had no impact on their family. The rest are divided almost equally between the 19 percent who said they were helped and the 22 percent who said they have been hurt.

Then: Democrats ran both chambers of Congress. Nancy Pelosi was speaker of the House and Harry Reid was Senate majority leader.

Now: Republicans are back in charge after Democratic losses in the 2010 and 2014 midterm elections. Opposition to "Obamacare" was a motivator for conservative voters. Pelosi and Reid are minority leaders in their respective chambers.

Then: Losing health insurance was a rite of passage for young adults; insurers routinely dropped them from parental coverage.

Now: Young adults can remain on a parent's plan until they turn 26, whether or not they are students.

Then: People who bought their own health insurance had to pay the full cost — making it unaffordable for many.

Now: Insurance exchanges like HealthCare.gov offer subsidized coverage.

Then: The final legislation cut a provision that would have authorized Medicare to pay doctors for counseling patients about what kind of care they would want in the last stages of a serious illness.

Former GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin asserted that would lead to "death panels." Palin's accusation was

widely debunked, but not before it created a furor.

Now: Medicare is considering a regulation to allow payment for end-of-life counseling and has asked for public comment. Such counseling would be voluntary, and the idea has wide support in the medical community.

Then: At a rally near Cleveland days before the bill passed in 2010, Obama claimed employers would see premiums plummet, "which means they could give you a raise."

That year, annual premiums for employer-sponsored insurance averaged \$5,049 for employee-only coverage and \$13,770 for a family plan, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation's employer survey.

Now: Premiums for job-based insurance have gone up.

They averaged \$6,025 for employee-only coverage in 2014, the most recent year available from Kaiser. Family coverage averaged \$16,834. The employee share also went up.

Supporters of the law say premiums have risen more slowly than would have otherwise been the case.

But employers have kept shifting costs to workers. The average annual deductible for single coverage was \$1,217 in 2014, up from \$917 in 2010.

Then: The 2010 Medicare trustees report estimated that spending cuts and tax increases in the health care law would extend the life of the program's giant hospital trust fund to 2029. Before, it was expected to run out in 2017.

Now: The 2014 Medicare trustees report estimated that the trust fund will be exhausted in 2030. Slowing medical inflation has helped Medicare, even as baby boomers reaching age 65 are flocking to enroll.

The health care law's cuts haven't had the dire consequences that many seniors feared. Congress has passed even more spending reductions since 2010.

Medicare's long-term future remains uncertain.

Then: Even before Obama signed the law, conservatives were preparing a constitutional challenge to its requirement that individuals carry health insurance. A divided Supreme Court upheld the mandate in 2012, ruling that the penalty for not complying works like a tax. However, the court gave states the option to reject the law's Medicaid expansion.

Now: A decision in the latest case brought by opponents is expected in late June.

Hansen

From Page 1

the non-profit group that grew out of the original tournament committee

"It was because of him that the tournament became what it is today."

It only made sense to honor the man who for so many years promote the event, according to Tim Butler, a 20-year committee member.

"There was no question in our mind that when the time came, he should be part of it," Butler said. "It's not by accident that the tournament is what it is today. It's because of him."

And yet, Hansen would no doubt smile at the name change, Roth said.

"Ole was a very excitable person, and loved the tournament," Roth said. "You know he'd get a kick out of it, seeing his name attached to it."

'DO YOU WANT TO HELP WITH THIS?'

At some point in the mid-1990s (he couldn't exactly remember), Roth was approached by Hansen, who was on the hunt for volunteer referees.

How could Roth say no? "I thought, 'Yeah, absolutely,'" he said.

"That was my first duty. I jumped into the (YBI) board a little bit more after a few years, and started scheduling the refs."

Hansen's involvement never slowed down. From team registration to soliciting new sponsors to coordinating the many volunteers, he had a hand in literally every facet of the tournament.

Perhaps his most noticeable role? Hansen was widely known as the "T-shirt guy."

His fellow committee members clearly remember him thinking big when it came to how many shirts order, Hovland said.

"We'd get to T-shirts, and he'd say we'd have to order this many," Hovland said. "He threw out a big number that first time, and we looked around and couldn't believe him."

"Sure enough, we hardly ever had any shirts left over."

And it wasn't as if Hansen had a set number of players, coaches and volunteers to work with every year, Hovland said — that number always fluctuated.

"The guy was a master at figuring out how many shirts we needed and how we could get rid of them at the tournament," Hovland said.

One month after his death,

Hansen himself was memorialized on a T-shirt. The Yankton community celebrated "Ole Hansen Day" during a home Bucks' football game in September 2013. The evening included a free-will donation dinner, but was most remembered for the black T-shirts sold before the game. The front of the shirts had an acronym for "O-L-E" with "Optimism, Leadership, Education." The backs read, "Have you ever bought a T-shirt from this guy?" and had Hansen's smiling face underneath.

'ENERGIZER BUNNY'

Even when Hansen was eventually forced to battle cancer, his passion for the Roger Haas Tournament never slowed down, according to Butler. In fact, Hansen's fellow committee members couldn't believe the passion remained.

"Of all the things that stood out was that he stayed with it all those years," Butler said. "Even when he had no skin in the game; no vested interest. ... A lot of our senior members marveled at that."

It wasn't uncommon, Butler added, for members to think to themselves, "Geez, what is it that drives you?"

The answer, friends say, was the opportunity for youth to have fun and play basketball.

"He was adamant that this tournament was for the kids who wanted to play, not the kids who were going to be college stars," Butler said.

"It was all about an experience they wouldn't otherwise get."

Beyond simply the players flocking to Yankton from around the area, the tournament has always relied heavily on volunteers. And Butler said another one of Hansen's joys was rewarding those volunteers — highlighted by an annual appreciation dinner on the Saturday of the tournament weekend.

"He understood the importance of volunteers," Butler said. "He took care of them."

'BECOME PRETTY WIDELY KNOWN'

Since its inception 25 years ago, the Roger Haas Tournament has always locked horns with the Tri-State Tournament in Sioux Falls, usually held around the same time every year.

The Haas tournament has steadily seen its profile rise, according to Roth.

"Seeing the tournament really grow size-wise as the years went on, with new sponsors, it's gotten to the point where everybody recognizes it," he said. "It's become pretty widely known."

In the age of specialization, AAU basketball and all-star teams, the Roger Haas Tournament

ment has remained consistent in its draw — due in large part to Hansen's passion, Butler said.

"Ole always wanted the kids to feel the excitement of a tournament," Butler said. "We couldn't lose those recreational players."

The inaugural event, in 1991, attracted 104 teams from across the area, while last year's figure was 106. The total number has always fluctuated, but has remained steady, Roth said.

"It's great to see teams that maybe aren't from the area travel two or three hours to come here, because they've heard about it," he said.

While part of that year-to-year success could be attributed to word of mouth, Hansen's role within the Yankton community was at the same time simple but crucial, Butler said.

The man with the white hair, glasses and wide smile would venture out to local businesses — old and new — to elicit their support, Butler said.

Sponsorship dollars are about one-third of the tournament's revenue, Butler said. Team fees and merchandise sales comprise the rest.

"He'd be the one going around to all the businesses like a little hummingbird," Butler said.

In 25 years, the tournament has not only remained consistent in its number of teams, but its format. Games have been held at Mount Marty College and the Summit Center, and other locations such as Yankton Middle School.

The one significant change in the tournament format involved bringing together tournaments that were held over two weekends into one, larger weekend for grades 4-8 — the ninth grade division was cut. The goal, Butler said, is to maintain Hansen's vision for the tournament to ensure it remains successful.

"It's hard to say where it's headed, but we hope there's still a place for it," Butler said.

After all, it's a tradition, he added.

"You don't have spring in Yankton until you've had the Roger Haas tournament," Butler said.

Hansen, for all his humility, would've wanted the tournament to move forward, Hovland said.

"He would rather let somebody else get in front and talk about it or take credit for it," Hovland said.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

OBITUARIES

Hubert Koch

Hubert John Koch was born on November 29, 1929 to Theodore and Anna (Meier) Koch in Epiphany, SD, shortly after their move here from Germany. He grew up on the family farm near Salem and attended grade school until age 13. When his father died in 1946, Hubert took over the farm and helped raise his five younger siblings.

On June 21, 1954, Hubert married Alice Elaine Marshall in Blunt, SD. To this union 8 children were born.



Koch

Hubert continued to live on the farm until 2003. He worked for the National Farmers Organization (NFO) for many years. In 1978, he ran for the House of Representatives seat. In 1988, he started his salvage business and continued at that successfully until last year.

Hubert enjoyed bowling, playing cards and visiting with friends. He participated

in tractor pulls and played baseball for years. He also treasured his trips to Germany to visit relatives. He was a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and a Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus.

Hubert passed away on Friday, March 20, 2015 at Golden Living in Salem having reached the age of 85 years, 3 months, and 20 days.

Hubert is survived by: his children, Pam (Roger) Hamilton of Yankton, Carla Drake of Omaha, NE, Ted (Kris) of Poynette, WI, Ken

(Rhonda) and Kevin, all of Salem, Monica (Colin) Kathol of Hartington, NE, Barb (David) Hoiten of Montrose, and Kendra (Ryan) Bakke of Yankton; one daughter-in-law, Renee; 25 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Doris (Gene) Cumbee of Salem and MaryAnn (Ken) Cross of Sioux Falls; sisters-in-law, Jeanette Koch of Salem, Marilyn Koch of Pierre and brother-in-law John Schroeder of Alexandria; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lorraine Brattmiller

Lorraine K. Brattmiller, 91, of Yankton died Saturday, March 21, 2015, at her home.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 27, at St. Benedict Catholic Church with the Rev. Ken Lulf officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton.

Visitation is from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, March 26, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a rosary and vigil service at 7 p.m. Visitation will continue one hour prior to the funeral at the church.

To send an online message to the family, visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Ruth Simonsen

Ruth Simonsen, 96, of Menno passed away Sunday, March 22, 2015, at the Freeman Regional Health Services, Freeman.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 27, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Menno, with the Rev. David Ellis officiating. Burial will be in the Menno Cemetery, Menno.

Visitations will be 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, and then 5-8 p.m. Thursday, March 26, at the Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, and then one hour prior to the service at the church.



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Honoring Their Memory

Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them

Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Dennis Hacecky
who passed away
March 23, 2014

Ruth Wright
who passed away
March 24, 2014

Lora Oswald
who passed away
March 28, 2014


This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory. Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.




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THOUGHTS

For Your Family



Directors Jim, Steve, Paul & Jerry Wintz



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SURVIVOR'S BURDEN

When a loved one dies, survivors often experience feelings of guilt. They may ask themselves why they didn't express their love more than they did, or they may dwell on hurtful words or actions that were once directed at the deceased. However, the thing to remember is that it is scarcely possible to love someone without experiencing hurt at one time or another. We may feel helpless with our guilt because a loved one may not be around to ask his or her forgiveness; yet, we may still ask for forgiveness. Most importantly, we must forgive ourselves. Bear this in mind if you have asked God for forgiveness countless times. Forgive yourself, love yourself, and let go of your guilt.

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"We acquire the strength we have overcome."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

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