



Box 1327, Fremont, NE 68026-1327

Fall 2010

## SUMMER ACTIVITIES



### **ASHLEY & MORGAN**

*(Left)*

*At the Annual Fishing Derby Sponsored by the Fremont Masonic Lodge and The Rod & Gun Club.*

### **JULIA**

*(Right)*

*Waiting for the Trophy Catch at the Annual Fishing Derby.*



The children kept very busy with activities during the summer.

4-H projects take up most of each day. Each child works on 15 to 45 projects during the 4-H year. The number of projects depends on the eagerness of the individual 4-Her. 4-H projects range from speeches to raising cattle. Experimenting with a hobby and a career project are required.

Weekday afternoons (except Fridays) children participate in activities. Reading, physical fitness, ceramics, swimming at the local pool, and games, such as capture the flag, are

some of the many afternoon activities that children experience.

Friday afternoons are set aside for picnics/activities with lodges and chapters and other off-campus outings. Deviled eggs and corn on the cob seemed to be the favorite picnic foods this year. Thank you to the lodges and chapters who sponsored picnics for the children.

Weekends are set aside for catching up, relaxing, gardening, fishing, and playing games.

A former resident of the Home sponsors a few children each summer to attend church camp. This summer the children chose to attend Ranch Camp at Calvin Crest which is located outside Fremont, Neb. As the name suggests, Ranch Camp is a combination horse riding camp and church camp. Children who attend love the experience.

Fortunately, we had three interns return for the summer. They work well together and the children like them. Hopefully, they will be back for a few more summers.

It was a fun, yet productive summer.

# MASONIC-EASTERN STAR HOME FOR CHILDREN

*Established 1912*

Highways 77 & Business 30  
PO Box 1327  
Fremont, Nebraska 68026-1327  
(402) 721-1185  
[www.meshc.org](http://www.meshc.org)

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Diana Schurz .....Morris Cottage

Dear Friends,

I am happy to report that the Home's population grew to 32 children last summer. For numerous reasons there is large quantity of children/families in the State of Nebraska who have a need for our services.

The 2009-2010 school year is a memory, but a successful memory for the children at the Home. During the third quarter of school five children were on the Honor Roll and during the fourth quarter of school four children were on the Honor Roll. Four graduated from high school. We are very proud of each child's accomplishments this year.

In addition to 4-H many of the Home's children participate in extracurricular activities in school. Children participated in track, swimming, football, flag team, band, choir, soccer, and basketball. Needless to say-we put a great deal of miles on our vans.

Our outdoor projects, replacing damaged cement and a new sport court, have been delayed, because of the rain. We are hopeful that they will be done before summer ends. We are thankful to donors who supported the replacement of damaged cement and we are thankful to Vesta Chapter for providing a new outdoor sport court for the children.

The children did well at the Fremont Fair this year, but they did particularly well with their gardening and ceramic projects.

In addition to calves and lambs a few of the children will be showing feeder calves and a bucket calf at the fairs this summer. Extra children on campus demanded extra animals for the children to show.

*Ron Giesselmann, Executive Director*



**CAITLYN**

*Loves to practice showing her sheep.*



**MATT** picking sweet corn.

*A great 4-H project and a tasty part of a meal!*

## PENN SISTERS

In 1927 the Penn family experienced a family emergency. Mrs. Penn was diagnosed with a serious illness and would have to be hospitalized for a prolonged period of time. Mr. Penn would have to decide what would be best for his three young daughters while their mother recuperated. The Penn family was also a Masonic family, so he took them to the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont, Nebraska to live until their mother's health was better.

While living at the Home, their mother's recuperation lasted longer than expected and the United States experienced an economic depression. The Penn's family emergency lasted longer than anyone expected. The Penn sisters lived at the Home until 1936. In 1936 their mother was able to return home.

June 24, 2010 the Penn sisters came back to visit the Home with many members of their family. During their visit they shared stories and spoke of the lessons they learned at the Home that carried on into their adult life.

Edna was five, Josephine was four, and Opal was 2 years old when they moved into the Home. They remember children always being around to play games. Fremont Public schools were utilized for their education.

Holidays were remembered as special times while living at the Home. Cakes shaped like bunnies were made in celebration of Easter. Christmas was the ultra-special holiday. The children were involved in Christmas activities at church. Christmas presents were packed around the trees. Many of these gifts, as they are now, came from Masonic and Eastern Star members.

A majority of the food for meals came from the Home's garden and farm. Masonic and Eastern Star members donated canned goods. The smell of Mrs. Donisthorpe's (house parent) sticky cinnamon rolls baking and the taste of brown sugar from the food pantry are memories shared by the sisters.

Entertainment consisted of playing games with all of the children. Picnics were also very entertaining for the Penn sisters. Watermelon, provided by a Fremont banker during one of the annual picnics, is a delicious memory for them.

From 1933 until 1935 their father, French Penn, managed the Home's farm. The sisters were able to live with their father in the house that was located on the Home's farm. The Home's garden increased in size, because of necessity and because of French Penn's desire to



**OPAL, EDNA & JOSEPHINE**

provide more food for the Home. In 1935 he left his employment at the Home. Gardening continued at the Home after his departure and has become an annual 4-H project and a supply of fresh vegetables for all of the children.

They explained how the Home taught them to be independent. Cooking, cleaning, sewing, and a strong work ethic were important lessons learned at the Home.

Each sister has a productive family, a career that they have retired from, and positive memories of the Home.



**MORGAN** (Above)

*Showing her calf to residents of the Masonic Home. The children show their animals each year in Plattsmouth.*



**DAYANA & TIFFANY**

*(Above) Prepare for the fair.*

**LAUREN** (Left) Always eager to help at the farm.



**TYLER** (Left)  
Getting help from his house parent at the fair.

**ANDY** (Below-Right)  
Also likes to help at the farm as much as possible.



**KAI XI** (Below)  
Spent every morning feeding her bucket calf Angel.



## HONORARIUMS

Received Mar. 9, 2010 through July 27, 2010

Donor	In Honor Of
Mount Vernon Chapter #84	Susan Andreasen, PGM
Rose Standish Chapter #265	Susie Baker, DGS
Dorcas Chapter #144	Susie Baker, DGS
Betty Mabon, PGM	Ruth Batie, 09-10 Grand Ruth
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Betty Mears	Cathy Wagner, Grand Secretary
Mr. & Mrs. William Parrish	Cathy Wagner, Grand Secretary
Dianne & Orville Wiberg	Cathy Wagner, Grand Secretary
Lowell & Mary Lou Erickson	Cathy Wagner, Grand Secretary
Temple Chapter #271	Cathy Wagner, Grand Secretary
Ogallala Chapter #142	Debra Williamson, DGS

## FAVORITE HOME RECIPE

### INGREDIENTS

1/2 c. margarine      1/8 tsp. salt  
 1/2 c. brown sugar    3/4 c. oats  
 1 c. flour              3/4 c. fruit only or  
 1/4 tsp. soda            chocolate chips

## GRANOLA BARS

### DIRECTIONS

- Line an 8x8 inch pan with foil and spray with Pam.
- Combine all ingredients except fruit and blind with pastry blender cutting margarine into dry mixture.
- Spread 3/4 of a mixture on bottom of pan.
- Spread fruit on top and sprinkle remaining mixture over top of fruit.
- Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 35 minutes.

## MORRIS COTTAGE

# MEMORIALS... Received March 9, 2010 through July 27, 2010

## Individual Memorials

<i>Donor</i>	<i>For</i>
Max Cates	Robert M. Allen
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E.W. & Lou Feuerstein	Mervin Boschult
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<i>Donor</i>	<i>For</i>
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Custer Lodge #148	Harvey Brown
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<i>Donor</i>	<i>For</i>
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Arbor Chapter #200	Edna Stoltenberg
Palmyra Chapter #257	Janice Wallen
Dorcas Chapter #144	Sheila Wederski
Starcraft Chapter #307	Laveva Whitehead

## Other Memorials

<i>Donor</i>	<i>For</i>
Past Matrons of	
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## Memorials for Thelma Andrews

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# MEMORIALS... Received March 9, 2010 through July 27, 2010

## Memorials for Bonnie Brasel, PGM

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Jan Barnard  
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Betty Mabon  
Carl C. Plants  
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## REMEMBERING BONNIE BRASEL

We lost a long-time member of our Board of Directors-Bonnie Brasel. Until her death Bonnie managed the Purple Ribbon Club. It was her idea to start the 4-H fund raising Purple Ribbon Club. Even moving off of the Public Relations committee did not stop Bonnie from managing the Club. She took great pride in her project.

The Purple Ribbon Club is used to create money for the Home's feed and care of its 4-H animals. The donor will receive a Purple Ribbon after the ribbon has been displayed at Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter.

Since the Purple Ribbon Club's inception the Home's 4-H program has received excellent financial support. It has become so popular that the ribbons are threatening to be greater than the display space available. Accommodations to the display are on the planning table, because of donor growth. It's wonderful having this problem.

Bonnie could always be found helping at the Chili Supper, Achievement Day, and other Home functions. Bonnie will be missed, but her work with the Purple Ribbon Club will live on.