

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1956

## CELEBRATION PLANS PERFECTED AT HORDVILLE

HORDVILLE — August 23rd will be a red letter day for the folks of this community. They'll be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of their small village.

At one time the town of 148 population boasted three doctors, a lumber yard, barber shop, bank, drug store, two elevators, four grocery stores, an implement store, two garages and yes, even a jewelry store.

Today there's the depot, post office, a cafe, the bank, one elevator, a feed store, a grocery store, a garage. Actually only the First State Bank and the Farmers Coop Elevator have been in continuous business a half century.

Carl Johnson, who lives on the edge of town, recalls the days the lots were sold by the realty company of Stromsburg. Although actual exact prices have long been forgotten, he does recall that all the lots on main street sold for over \$300 each. Today some could be picked up for taxes.

"I helped with the work of putting up the first sidewalks for main street, I had to cut cornstalks to allow the workers to put in the forms.

"There was only but corn on the land surveyed for the town except the Lutheran church which stood a couple blocks away. It had been here since 1884. The Union Pacific railroad donated 40 acres of land to any church that would organize. The Lutherans took advantage of the offer, later selling the land to make way for Hordville.

The same people who started the town organized the bank. Nathan Wilson was president; his brother, Victor Wilson, vice president; a brother-in-law, C. V. Nelson, treasurer, all of Stromsburg. They incorporated at \$10,000. Today the bank's capital structure is symbolic as something that has grown, over \$100,000. The man who is now president of the bank, Ruben Gustafson, was born here and always lived here, graduate of Hordville school, attended two years at Kearney State Teachers college, then started as clerk in 1918 in the home town bank. In 1922 he became cashier, in 1927 president, a position he has held since. Clarence Rodine, former elevator manager at Hordville, and now postmaster at Polk, and Stanley Carlson are the banks other two directors.

One of the directors of the Farmers Coop Elevator, Roy Knutson, is serving in the same capacity as did his grandfather, Clarence Knutson, 50 years ago. James F. Conner, Peter Erickson, George Grosvenor, Swan Benson and L. P. Jones were the other first directors of the elevator board which had an authorized capital stock figure of \$20,000. The elevator still maintains the \$20,000 figure yet last year did a net profit business of over \$25,000. Dwayne Hahn, a Korean army veteran, has been manager the past five years. His grandfather, E. W. Hahn, is a former president and long-time director of the same elevator. Birger Benson has the longest office tenure, 39 years of director. E. W. Parson, a navy veteran, is assistant manager. In 1955 a new elevator was built at a cost of about \$75,000. Present board members are: Otto Mowitz, president; Emil Wilshusen, vice president; Leonard Johnson, treasurer; Lester Williamson, secretary; Victor Larsen and Roy Knutson.

As might be expected, the August 23 celebration program promises to be of special interest to old timers. A complete history of the village will be given. There'll be an old time parade, a picnic dinner.

W. F. Drown of Omaha, public relations director for Nebraska State Farmers Union Exchange, who remembers some of the town's development when he lived at Polk, five miles away, when his father was minister there, will be guest speaker. In the evening the Hayloft Frolics of KHAS, Hastings, will entertain. There will be a carnival and dance for old and young.

Yes, there'll be a lot of "story swapping" when this neat village with two blocks of main street centered with a lovely boulevard of green shrubbery and trees, observes 50 years of existence.

The town receives its name from the Hord family, who lived nearby. Its people are about 70% Swedes, with a nice sprinkling of German and Danes.

## FRIDHEM SERVES 13th ANNUAL SMORGASBORD

The Fridhem Lutheran Church served its 13th annual smorgasbord on Nov. 8. Five hundred and thirty guests partook of the many Swedish foods served on an attractive two tiered table.

Popularity of this affair is proved by the many guests who come back every year to enjoy this smorgasbord. People were present from all the surrounding towns and from York, Grand Island, St. Paul, Fremont, Lindsay, Columbus, Omaha, Geneva,

Fullerton, Utica, N.Y., San Francisco, Kearney, St. Edward, Genoa, Sidney, Wood River, Bradshaw and Clarks.

The church parlors were attractive in Swedish decorations. Vari-colored mums centered the serving table.

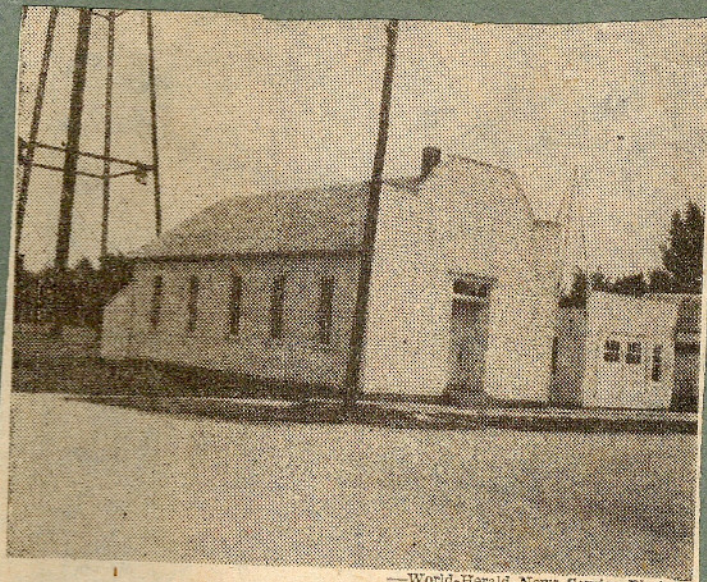
Foods served included a variety of salads, potatoes, meats, breads, cookies, and desserts. Typical Swedish dishes such as Ost Koka and lingon, potatis kow, brunaboner, kott bullar are great favorites.

The smorgasbord is sponsored by the Ladies Aid. All members of the church furnish food and help with the work. This year some of the men of the congregation washed the dishes and did some

of the other jobs that are a part of such a large undertaking.

The Finance Committee of the Aid did the planning. Mrs. Paul Nielsen is chairman. Other members are Mrs. Will Steele, Mrs. Victor Larsen, Mrs. Ralph Flodman, Mrs. Carroll Erickson, Mrs. Bertha Anderson, Mrs. Carl Johnson and Mrs. Kenneth Clayton ably assisted by Mrs. Floyd Johnson. Mrs. Elmer Peterson is president of the Aid. Other officers are Mrs. Albin Benson, Mrs. Lloyd Hanquist, and Mrs. Don Quick.





—World-Herald News Service Photo.

Community Hall . . . Former church, oldest building.

## Hordville Marks 50 Years; Town Smaller, Still Proud

The World-Herald's News Service.

Hordville, Neb.—The neat little town of Hordville (population 148) will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary Thursday.

There are only two blocks of main street, but they are lined with well-kept buildings and homes, bordered with shrubbery and trees.

The town once boasted three doctors and many more businesses. But the present residents are as proud of their town as any boomer city.

Once there were a bank, lumber yard, two elevators, four groceries, implement store, two garages, jewelry

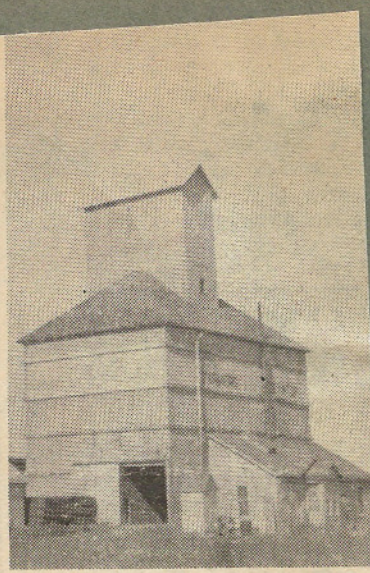
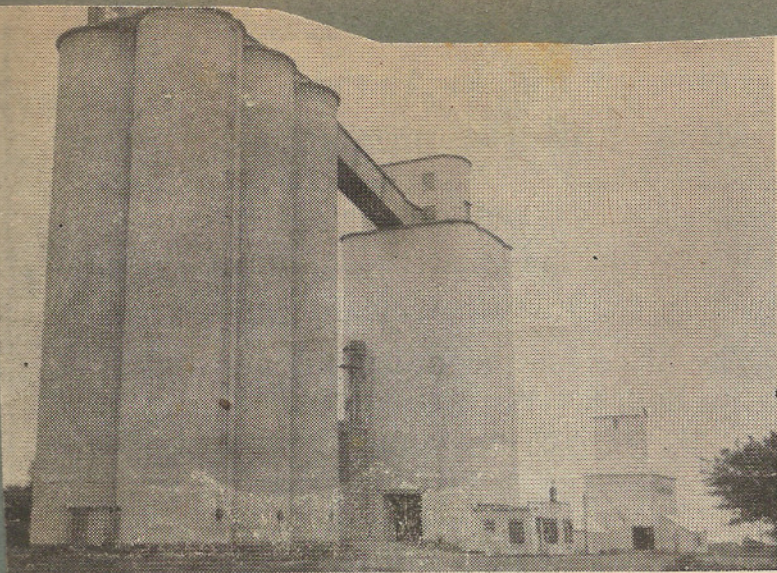
store, barber shop, depot and postoffice.

Today there are the bank, cafe, one elevator, one grocery, one garage, a feed store, depot and postoffice.

A Lutheran Church was built in 1884 on 40 acres of land donated by the Union Pacific. The land was sold to make way for the town of Hordville and the church now is the Community Hall.

The elevator is managed by Dwayne Hahn, whose grandfather, E. W. Hahn, was a former president. It was incorporated at 20 thousand dollars and last year had a net profit of 25 thousand.





Here are the early and modern views of the Farmers Co-op Grain elevator in Hordville. The elevator has a much greater capacity than when it was first started.

## 'HORDVILLE DAY' Is Next Thursday

**Grand Public Auction**  
of Lots in the New Town of  
**POLK & HORDVILLE**  
At Polk Tuesday Sept. 11, '06 Hordville, Wednesday Sept. 12, '06  
By J. H. Thomas, Auctioneer, at the Court House in Polk, Iowa, at 10 o'clock a.m.

**PLAN OF POLK**

**POLK**  
The town of Polk is located on the Iowa River, and is one of the most fertile and productive sections of the State. It is a well-watered and well-wooded section, and is one of the most desirable places for a home or a business. The town is well-served by the Iowa River, and is one of the most fertile and productive sections of the State. It is a well-watered and well-wooded section, and is one of the most desirable places for a home or a business.

**HORDVILLE**  
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**PLAN OF HORDVILLE**

**TERMS:** Cash on delivery, or 5% down and balance on 30 days. The property will be sold to the highest bidder, and the purchaser will be bound to take and receive the same, and to pay the purchase money at the time and place specified.

For Further Information Apply to  
**City Improvement Co.**  
Stromsburg, Nebraska

Hordville will celebrate its 50th anniversary next Thursday, August 23 starting with a parade at 11:30 in the morning. A picnic dinner will be held in the park at noon. Everyone bring their own dinner. The village will furnish ice cream and a drink.

An afternoon program starting at 1:30 will consist of a concert by the Hamilton County Band a talk by Wilbur Drown on the history of the town and elevator. This will be followed by contests and games for all.

In the evening the program will start at 8:00 p. m. The Hayloft Frolics, a group of TV entertainers will put on an hour and half show on Main street and will be followed by a square dance.

The W. A. Thomas Shows from Belgrade will have concession rides for young and old all during the day. There will also be other stands for refreshments.

It is hoped that all former residents and friends will be in Hordville for this celebration.

Page 6 of this newspaper has a full page announcement of the celebration program.



The picture at the top shows the handbill that was printed at the time Polk and Hordville were first originated. The lower photo is another view of Hordville taken back in the 20's.



**Fun For All**

**Come One, Come All**

# **HORDVILLE DAY**

**Come to Hordville, Nebr. for the 50th celebration of  
Village of Hordville - Farmers Co-op Grain Ass'n**

**August 23, 1956**

**Carnival - Picnic - Parade  
'Hayloft Frolics' & DANCE**



## **Morning and Afternoon**

Parade and Floats at 11:30 A. M.

Picnic Dinner at 12:00 noon in the Park. Bring your Picnic Dinner. Drinks and Ice Cream will be furnished FREE.

Afternoon program at 1:30 in the Park  
Music by the Hamilton County Band

Short talk by Mr. Wilbur F. Drown from the Public Relations of Nebr. Farmers State Exchange.

Short history of the town and also a short history of the Farmers Elevator

Contests and games for young and old at 3:00 P. M.

## **Evening**

Drawing on the center of main street at 8:00 P. M. These prizes are all merchandise given by our local business men.

Evening program at 8:30 on main street.

We are happy to have for our evening entertainers the

***"Hayloft Frolics"***

from Channel 13 on T. V.

This will be a 1½ hour show

They will also play immediately after the show for a dance which will be held at the School Auditorium

***The W. A. Thomas Shows from Belgrade will be on hand with concession rides for young and old***

***Also other refreshment stands on grounds***

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# **Everyone Welcome**

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***Be sure to make August 23 a date to see us all in***

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# **HORDVILLE, NEBRASKA**

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