



NADINE GUILFORD AND SON, KEVIN, at Gil's Market in Hordville. The market has been sold after being operated by the Guilfords for 30 years.

—Republican-Nonpareil photo

Hordville landmark under new ownership

Gil's Market, which has operated for 30 years in Hordville is under new ownership.

Carl and Peggy Simonson of Mullen have purchased the store, and took over its operation Monday of last week, and have re-named it Hordville Market.

In order to reminisce and say goodbye to their friends, there was a three-day going-away party at the market last weekend, and friends dropped by to visit with the Guilfords who have operated the town grocery since September of 1957.

Nadine Guilford and her late husband, Merlin (Gil), a native of Marquette, purchased the store, then called Mac's Market, September 27, 1957 from Martin McConnell. The Guilfords lived in the back of the store for six years until "there wasn't enough room" for their increasing family.

The family includes Mrs. Randy (Carla) Fowler, who operates The Backdoor beauty shop across the street; twins Kevin of Hordville and Mrs. Walter (Myla) Thompson of Denver, and Mrs. Allen (KoAnn) Nelson of Central City.

All of the children grew up helping their parents in the store, and since Gil's death, Mrs. Guilford has continued its operation with the assistance of Kevin, whose specialty is meatcutting, and his wife, Rhonda.

Kevin recently purchased Mills Processing in Clarks which he will take over April 1. Kevin and Rhonda also plan to move to the Clarks community to operate their new Clarks Locker & Meat Processing facility.

Nadine remembers how much the store has changed since she and Gil first purchased it. "We used to test cream and bought cream and chickens," she recalls. "And, there wasn't a refrigerated fruit and vegetable display when we bought the store."

Through the years, Gil's Market became famous for its meat and potato bologna, a Swedish sausage made at the store. Customers came from miles around to purchase the meat and bologna.

Now retiring, Mrs. Guilford, who plans to stay in Hordville and help the new owners for awhile, says she really isn't going to an alligator farm in Florida, as she has been telling friends. She has a new interest, she says in jest--going into space to collect diamond dust from the newly-discovered exploding nova.

New owners, Carl and Peggy, figure they have a good background -- raising cattle -- for their new business. Their family, a married daughter, Tammy, who is a respiratory therapist in Des Moines, Ia.; son, John, a pre-med student at Kearney State, and youngest son, Shane, a freshman at Hordville High School, were raised in the ranching business.

"We're happy to be here in Hordville," said the Simonsons, "and we plan to continue to serve the community in the same fine tradition as the Guilfords."



CARL AND PEGGY SIMONSON have purchased the former Gil's Market in Hordville. Operating under the name, Hordville Market, the former cattle ranchers plan to serve the community "in the same fine tradition as the Guilfords."

—Republican-Nonpareil photo