

"Pars" Parsons retires from Hordville elevator

E. N. "Pars" Parsons, has completed 32 years of service as an employee of the Hordville Farmers Co-Op Association.

An open house to honor "Pars" in his retirement, is planned for Thursday, Feb. 6 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the elevator.

Parsons joined the Farmers Elevator in 1954 from serving as manager and butter-maker in the Co-Op Creamery in Central City.

The old wooden elevator had a capacity of about 100,000 bushels. The storage capacity has grown in the past years to 1,600,000 bushels.

The storage was improved with a 155,000 bushel annex in 1955, a 400,000 bushel steel building in 1958, two 40,000 bushel steel bins in 1978 on the old bin site and two Chief 150,000 bushel bins added in 1982 on the west end of the elevator property.

The elevator is located on the Union Pacific Railroad line and the railroad and trucks are employed for hauling depending upon the destination of the grain.

BUSINESS HAS CHANGED

"Pars" observes that the grains of 32 years ago are about the same as today but the crops are better quality and yields have increased due to the change from dryland to irrigated farming and increased skills of the growers.

Corn was bringing around 1.15 a bushel in 1954. The price went up to around 3.60 in 1974 and is now around 2.30 with the depressed farming and economic conditions.

The Farmers Elevator business has changed with the addition of anhydrous service and dry and liquid fertilizers.

The Hordville firm used to operate a roller mill and grind feed for area producers. A line of feed takes the place of the feed mill nowadays.

An important product in the past was the coal business which has slowed to use by the Hordville Public School, a Hordville business firm and one home.

Coal is still sold to a customer in the Minden area.

"Lump coal was a popular product a few years ago," Pars recalls. This was distributed to a wide area in central Nebraska.

RETIREMENT PLANS

Parsons' retirement plans include spending more time at their cabin on a lake by the Platte River north of Hordville.

Over the years at the lake he has taught many area children and adults how to water ski. He also hopes to be able to play some golf as the weather permits.

Pars also says he will be available to help at the elevator whenever he is needed for part-time work.

NATIVE OF ARNOLD

Pars is a native of the Arnold area. He moved to Central City in 1934 and attended school there before entering the United States Navy in 1942.

He served until 1946 as a gunner's mate on a merchant ship in the Pacific Ocean. He estimates the ship completed around eight "crossings".

One of the "loads" was 150 soldiers with 150 attack and guard dogs. He recalls that the dogs got just about as seasick as the soldiers.

When he returned to Central City he ran a creamery route before taking



E. N. "PARS" PARSONS smiles in anticipation of his retirement from the Farmers Co-operative Association elevator in Hordville. He is shown at the automatic scale which is part of his duties for the past 31 years. —News-Register Photo by Forrest Hosier.

over as manager and butter-maker.

In July, 1948, he was married to Shirley M. Jones of Hordville. Her father, Paul Jones, was a hog buyer in the Hordville area until his death.

Shirley's mother, Clara, makes her home with the Parsons in the family home.

The Parsons have a son, Rich, who is a carpenter and lives north of Hordville with his wife, the former Rhea Shoup.

There are two grandchildren, Shane and Preston.

Shirley Parsons joined the Farmers Elevator staff as bookkeeper in 1957. She will continue on the elevator staff.

ENJOYED ELEVATOR WORK

Pars says he has enjoyed his job over the years. Some of the former manual labor is now done by machines. "There is still plenty of work involved," Pars said.

He said he had enjoyed his association with Manager Shorty Hahn and the other employees past and present. "We have been about like a big happy family at the elevator," Pars explained.

While living in Hordville, Pars has served on the school board and on the village board. He became a volunteer fireman in 1956 and served as chief for several years.

The Hordville Fire Department became a part of the Hordville Fire

place of a hose cart that had been used previously.

Pars has also served on the Hamilton County Planning and Zoning Commission and thought it to be interesting and important duty.

A highlight of his career at the Farmers Elevator has been the opportunity to serve the area farmers, Parsons said.

The Farmers Co-Operative Association elevator is nearing 80 years of service to the Hordville area. The annual stockholders meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 8 at 12 noon in the Hordville school auditorium.