

Hordville Wins Top CIP Award

Aurora News Register 11-13-76

Hordville was the big winner in Class I in the Community Improvement Program awards presentation Friday evening in Lincoln. A \$450 cash prize and a bronze plaque are souvenirs of the high honor.

A scrapbook prepared by Mrs. Gladys Anderson, Marie Clayton and Verna Erickson took first place among the many entries from across the state.

Other finalists in the contest were Alexandria, Belden, Farnam, Odell and Steplehurst.

Scrapbook items include the Hordville spring and fall clean-up days which climax in a community potluck supper.

The new Community Center that provides eight units of low-rent housing and the new Community Hall that resulted from a community effort to remodel the old Veburg seed store.

Civic clubs, Four-H clubs and other youth groups use the building as well as service organizations and the Village Board.

Progressiveness of the Farmers Co-op Association, the First State Bank and Gil's Market, plus the neat appearance of the community all figured in the attainment of the first place plaque and award money.

Other scrapbook items and highlights selected by the out-of-state judges were the Lions Club projects ranging from an Easter egg hunt, Halloween party to the cleaning up of the old Bluff Cemetery and

work on the mini park on Hordville's Main Street.

A total of 50 improvement projects were listed in the 56-page scrapbook.

The Fridhem Lutheran Church centennial and appearance of the Nebraska Theatrical Group and school activities also went into the prize-winning effort.

Other Hordville improvements included reshingling of the bandstand on Main Street, resurfacing of some of the village streets and improvement of the railroad crossing.

Postmaster Elmer Garner is the president of the Community Club and Denny Riekenberg is the vice president.

A replica of the Hordville water tower was the centerpiece for the Hordville table at the award banquet. Representing Hordville in Lincoln were Robert Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Garner, Marie Clayton and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Anderson.

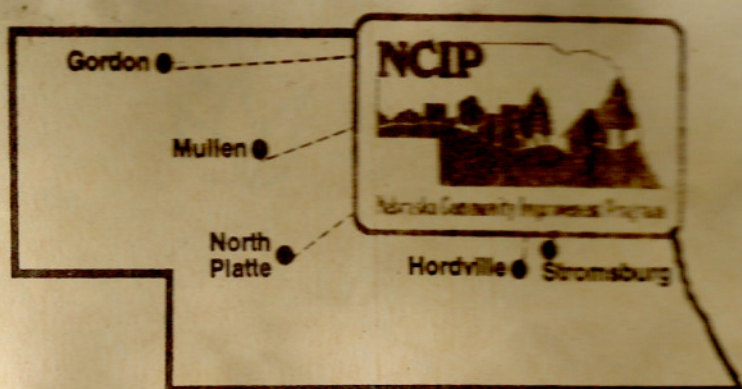
Hordville will be observing its 75th anniversary in 1981.

In Class III, Henderson received honorable mention and a \$50 prize.



HORDVILLE REPRESENTATIVES ACCEPT the plaque and check from Governor and Mrs. Charles Thone during the Community Improvement Awards program in Lincoln Friday night. From the left: Governor Thone, Elmer Garner, Marie Clayton,

Norm Rosow of Iowa, Virginia Dunnigan of North Dakota and Donna DiMatteo, community programs coordinator of Nebraska, were in Hordville Tuesday afternoon. These people are connected with the Nebraska Community Improvement Program and were here to look the town over. Mr. Rosow and Ms. Dunnigan were judges of the many community improvement program scrapbooks that had been submitted earlier from towns of 300 or less. They had judged the top 30 scrapbooks of the 32 submitted



First place winners in Nebraska Community Improvement Program. Results on Page 12.

Talk about improving! Hordville takes the cake

By Justin Mitchell *Lincoln Journal 6-8-80*

There were no hordes from Hordville in Lincoln Friday, just Gladys Anderson and Marie Clayton.

"We didn't bring a band with us," Mrs. Anderson said.

Well, there might be a band when they return — that is, if everyone isn't watching the Hordville High girls volleyball team compete in the regionals.

You see, Hordville — population 150, two churches, one elevator, a grocery store and bank — ambled away with the top honor Friday in the Class I division of the Nebraska Community Improvement Program.

It was Hordville's first try in the competition, which has been sponsored for 17 years by the state Department of Economic Development.

Was it beginner's luck for the town, which sits just north of Nebraska 66 and a little west of Polk in Hamilton County?

Probably not. You do have to have a good scrapbook, one that will catch the judge's eye, Mrs. Anderson explained. Hordville's red-and-white (the same colors worn by the Hordville High Bulldogs) book was certainly eye-catching, but it was what was inside that made the difference.

Photographs by Mrs. Anderson's son Jim testified to a total town effort in projects as small as a new magazine rack and as large as a renovated community hall.

The new community hall — a 20-by-60-foot building, formerly a seed store owned by Mrs. Clayton's father — was the focus and catalyst of Hordville's yearlong effort, the women said.

"It was badly needed," Mrs. Anderson said simply. And with a lot of volunteer work and hired help, groups such as the 4-H, Lions Club, senior citizens and the Village Board now have a place to meet.

Bake sales, a pancake supper and an ice cream social also helped raise money. "Everybody will come if you serve something to eat, but you just can't ask for money," Mrs. Anderson said.

As well as being new to the competition, Hordville, established in 1907, is relatively new to Nebraska.

"We were not all that concerned with the competition," said Mrs. Anderson. "In fact, we didn't think we'd get this far."

So the first-place award has brought more to Hordville than \$450 and the plaque given to first-place winners.

"There's been tremendous community pride, a total effort," Mrs. Anderson said.

So Much From Hordville's Few Moved Judges

World Herald 11-9-90

By Tom Allan

World-Herald Staff Writer

Hordville, Neb. — So much was accomplished by so many in a town so small.

That, in essence, was what impressed the out-of-state experts in community development and was the big reason Hordville, population 147, was named Nebraska's No. 1 small town Friday night at the 17th annual Nebraska Community Improvement Program recognition banquet in Lincoln.

The Hamilton County village, named for the late T.B. Hord, prominent Sand Hills rancher and livestock feeder, bested five other finalists — Staplehurst, Farnam, Belden, Odell and Alexandria — to win the title in its first try in the nationally recognized competition.

"We'd Done So Much"

"We'd done so much we just thought it was a good year to enter, especially since the town will be celebrating its 75th anniversary next year," said Gladys Anderson, secretary-treasurer of the Hordville Community Club, which sponsored Hordville's entry.

Mrs. Anderson, wife of the local banker, spent hundreds of hours with retired schoolteachers Marie Clayton and Verna Erickson compiling an entry scrapbook that required 56 pages to detail the village's 50 improvement projects.

Mrs. Clayton, a woman with spunk enough to get a degree from Kearney State College in 1976 after her teaching career, said the judges were first impressed by the cleanliness of the village.

"Everybody is involved in big spring and fall cleanups, including the kids and farmers with chain saws and pickups," she said. "The cleanup days end with a big community potluck supper."

Thinking Ahead

But what really dazzled the judges were the new community center, a new eight-unit, low-rent housing project which they termed "very unusual for a village so small" and the progressiveness of the town's biggest industry, the Hordville Co-op Elevator.

Co-op members gave up their dividends to build a \$225,000 railroad spur big enough to ac-



World-Herald/Tom Allan

Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. Anderson, Garner . . . Citizens stayed busy.

commodate a 25-unit train. Then they leased 25 hopper cars bearing the Hordville Co-op name for grain shipments to the West Coast.

A major area-wide goal was the transformation of the old Veburg Seed Store by mostly volunteer labor into a modern community center. It replaced the old town hall housed in a former church.

The center is the new village hub of activity and is in constant use by civic clubs, 4-H and other youth groups, service organizations and the village board. It was used for the first time this year for the primary and general elections.

Did It Themselves

"We did it ourselves and paid for it with everything from flea markets and rummage sales to soup suppers," said Mrs. Clayton. Her father, John Veburg, first operated the seed store in which the center is located.

"The judges also were impressed that such a small town has a bank (the First State Bank), a big grocery store (Gil's Market) and a fully accredited high school with excellent academic and athletic programs plus the high number

of students who go on to college," Mrs. Anderson said.

The numerous other projects included service club programs such as the Lions Club's "Ours for Others" projects ranging from an Easter egg hunt and Halloween party to cleaning up the old rural Bluff Cemetery.

A minipark was started in a main street vacant lot. Lutheran Church men laid a concrete slab and the park was equipped with homemade playground equipment.

Shingles and Pancakes

The Fridhem Lutheran Church celebrated its centennial by reviving a Swedish Midsummer Festival, with special memorial services honoring pioneers.

The old bandstand in the middle of the mall was reshingled. Some streets were resurfaced and the railroad crossing improved. The Nebraska Theater Group couldn't believe the big welcome it got with a pancake feed attended by more than 300.

And there were the intangibles that mark a champion.

The three women agreed with Elmer Garner, postmaster and president of the Community

Club, and Denny Eickenberg, its vice president, that big factors were participation and community pride about its Swedish, German and Danish heritage.

"There's a lot of pride here in the town, not only from the residents but from the surrounding rural area," Garner said. "Whenever something needs to be done, everybody shows up and pitches in."

Symbolic of the pride is the red-white-and-blue water tower. The Hordville delegation took a replica of it to the awards banquet as a centerpiece for its table. Garner said another town symbol is a beribboned shovel.

"It represents all the hard work involved, as well as being symbolic of our kindergarten-through-12th-grade, energy-saving school. It may be the only one. They still shovel coal to heat it."

Class I Community Improvement Program Top Honors Won By Hordville On First Try

Polk Progress



From Lincoln Journal
Saturday, November 8
by Justin Mitchell

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Hordville-Henderson In NCIP Awards Nite

11-6-70

Hordville and Henderson are among the Nebraska communities that will be honored Friday evening during the Nebraska Community Improvement Program awards banquet in Lincoln.

Hordville is among the six finalists in the Class I competition for towns under 350 population. The other towns are Alexandria, Belden, Farnam, Odell and Staplehurst.

Henderson is competing in Class III, towns with populations between 301 and 1,500. Other towns in the division are Bassett, Curtis, Osmond, Pierce and Stromsburg.

Aurora, in Class IV, population 1,501 to 5,000 is not one of the finalists this year. The finalists are Crete, David City, Gordon, Hebron, Ralston and Syracuse.

Nebraska Governor Charles Thone is the featured guest speaker.

The Nebraska Community Improvement Awards are administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to encourage citizen participation in community improvement projects.

Aurora's representation will include Community Improvement and Development Chairman Lyle Shaneyfelt and Chamber of Commerce Manager Donna Rasmussen. Several other ACID Committee members and organization representatives will also be present.

The community awards presentation will be televised live on the Nebraska Educational Television Network starting at 7:30 p.m.

In previous years, Aurora has won numerous honors in the competition and received the designation of All-Nebraska Community.

Hordville Efforts Win Top State Community Award

Republican-Nonpareil 11-13-80

Hordville, population 150, and a first-time contender in the Nebraska Community Improvement Program, took top honors in the Class I division last Friday night in the 17th annual presentation of awards at Lincoln.

Don Gill, manager for Lincoln radio station KLIN and master of ceremonies for the Department of Economic Development's yearly awards banquet, announced the five population category winners. On hand to receive the top award, a plaque and \$450 prize money, for Hordville were Mrs. Dick (Gladys) Anderson and Marie Clayton. Mrs. Anderson is secretary-treasurer of the Community Club, which sponsored Hordville's entry, and Mrs. Clayton is chairman of the club's scrapbook committee. The two women, along with Verna Erickson, spent many hours compiling the entry scrapbook, which was the first thing to catch the judges' attention. Central City's Ned Hedges, vice chancellor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, also spoke during the award program.

The focus of Hordville's community improvement and the deciding factor in the state award is a new community hall. The 20- by 60-foot building, formerly a seed store, testified to a year-long effort by townspeople to provide a badly needed center for young and old alike.

Bake sales, a pancake supper, ice cream social, and lots of volunteer and hired help renovated the seed store into a place for such groups as the 4-H, Lions Club, senior citizens and the Village Board to meet.

Also significant in the judges' decision were several other community achievements: the new eight-unit, low-rent housing project, and the recently installed railroad spur for the Hordville Co-op Elevator. Members gave up their dividends to build the \$224,000



Mrs. Marie Clayton displays the entry scrapbook which detailed Hordville's prize-winning projects. Colored pictures of the village's improvement program, included in the book, were taken by Jim Anderson.

---Republican-Nonpareil photo

spur so that they could accommodate a 25-unit train to ship grain, and then they leased 25 hopper cars bearing the Hordville Co-op name.

The cleanliness of the town also impressed the judges. Mrs. Clayton, in an interview Monday afternoon, revealed that everyone in Hordville and the surrounding rural area participates in big spring and fall cleanups which end with a community potluck supper.

Add to that the continuing

service projects of various clubs and organizations, the minipark in a main street vacant lot, the renovated bandstand and the town's fully accredited high school, and Hordville was bound to be a champion.

"There's been a tremendous community pride in making the hall a reality for our town," commented Mrs. Anderson, "as well as all of the other goals we've accomplished together. The award was a thrilling bonus."

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