

Hordville - A Growing Community

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Hordville Correspondent

"And where are you from?" someone asks you. "Hordville, Nebraska," you reply. "I've never heard of it, where is it located?" The above is a typical conversation when one gets too far from Hamilton County. Hordville happens to be a pretty little town located in the northeast corner of Hamilton County.

Hordville isn't too large a town and lots of people haven't heard of it. But it is growing and more people are becoming familiar with it.

It was started in 1906 when the Union Pacific Railroad decided to extend its branch line from Stromsburg to Central City and to acquire the needed right-of-way. The City Improvement Company of Stromsburg was given the right to plat two towns, Hordville and Polk. Fridhem Lutheran Church sold 30 acres of its land for the townsite at \$100 an acre, a high price for land at that time. A sale of lots was held on Sept. 12, 1906. The day after the sale work began on the first store building, now housing Gil's Market. A bank was established with its charter dated Sept. 10, 1906. Many other businesses were started. At one time the town had three doctors, a lumber yard, a barber shop, a bank, drug store, two elevators, a railroad depot, an implement shop, two garages, a jewelry store, a hotel, a livery barn and a blacksmith shop.

Most of these businesses are no more. However, the Co-op Elevator continues to serve a large territory as does the 1st State Bank. There is a cafe, a seed store, a post office, a filling station, a grocery store and locker plant, a high school and grade school, Lutheran and Baptist churches. Camp Covenant Cedars north of town

maintains a busy schedule of camps during the summer. Many people have cabins along the sandpits and lakes.

The 1970 census shows Hordville's population at 150 (it was 120 in 1960) and it has grown since then. From 1930 when the Lutheran and Methodist churches built new parsonages there were no new homes built until 1965 when Charley Osterman built a new home on Main Street. Since then three new homes have been built in the east part of town by Richard Andersons, Floyd Johnsons and Harold Blases. Several mobile homes have been set up. West Hordville began to grow when Dennie and Joyce Riekenberg moved the Presbyterian Manse here from Central City. They have done extensive remodeling of their home in town as have Dallas Timmons, Duane Demers and Carrol Ortegrens. The newest home in town was recently occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Larson and their family. Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Timmons are in the process of building a new home and at least one other is in the planning stages.

The town has planted many new trees in the Town Park and in the boulevard. In 1972 Main Street and the three streets extending east were hard topped. Several streets have been graveled this year. Mayor Merlin Guilford stated that eventually they hope to hard-surface all the streets in town. Plans are being discussed for making a hard-surfaced tennis court that can be flooded in the winter for ice-skating. It is hoped that a new fire hall can be erected soon. A baseball field is also being contemplated. The light company has put in some modern street lights and is going to put in more. Fridhem Lutheran Church received a fresh coat of paint last year and

this spring its 80 foot spire and cross were renovated.

With its growth and its plans for the future Hordville continues to be one of the nice small towns in Nebraska.