

'Guilfords will be missed'

Gil's Market is sold at Hordville

There was a going away party of sorts last Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Gil's Market in Hordville. Friends dropped by for coffee and cake and to wish the best for the Guilfords who have operated the town's grocery for the past 30 years.

The store has been sold and the new owners took over Monday of this week.

"It's not going to seem right to walk in here and not see a Guilford," said RoJean Necker, a longtime customer.

Nadine Guilford and her husband, Merlin, a native of Marquette, bought what was then called Mac's Market from Martin McConnell on Sept. 27, 1957. They lived in the back of the store until 1963. "When the twins came, there just wasn't enough room," Mrs. Guilford said, taking time out to talk about the business while serving coffee and cake and greeting visitors.

The twins are Kevin, who was busy cutting meat in another part of the store, and Mrs. Allen (KoAnn) Nelson who lives in Central City. The two other children are oldest daughter, Mrs. Randy (Carla)

Fowler, who operates "The Backdoor" beauty shop across the street from Gil's, and Mrs. Walter (Myla) Thompson of Denver.

All of the children "grew up with the place," Mrs. Guilford said. Kevin and his wife, Rhonda, who also helps in the store, are moving to Clarks to operate a locker and meat facility.

Mrs. Guilford, who has been at the helm since her husband died, really isn't going to retire to an alligator farm in Florida--as she tells people she is--but will stay on in Hordville for awhile and will be around the store some to help the new owners, Carl and Peggy Simonsen of Mullen.

The store the Simonsens will take over has changed a great deal during the time the Guilfords operated it. "We use to test cream and bought creme and chickens," Mrs. Guilford said. There wasn't even a refrigerated fruit case when the Guilfords bought the store. They put the fruit out for display in the morning and what was left was put away at night.

The store made its reputation on its meat and its potato baloney, a

Swedish sausage, that is made right in the store. Customers love it and some even have orders frozen to take with them on trips out-of-state.

Gil was a fine meatcutter and when the Guilfords first started, lots of farmers still butchered and brought their meat into the store. "We did a lot of processing," Mrs. Guilford said.

Now Kevin handles the meatcutting chores. Near the case where he displays a wide variety of meat, are a couple of photographs, one in color and one in black and white. Both show Kevin Guilford firing the basketball shot that scored the winning points in the last second for his 1981 Hordville High team in the state championship game against Filley.

The school's state championship along with Hordville's first place finish in the Nebraska Community Improvement Program the same year is proclaimed on a sign on the front of the store. Gil "commissioned" Jolene Veburg (now Ditmer) to paint the sign to celebrate the banner year.

It, like the store itself, is a Hordville landmark.



NADINE GUILFORD AND HER son, Kevin, in Gil's Market at Hordville. The store has been sold after being operated by the Guilfords for nearly 30 years. The new owners took over Monday. News-Register Photo by Hap Fruits.