



BACK TO KOREA



BRENT McCOWN / Tribune

Left: Gene Arnold of Trumbull poses with an "Ambassador for Peace" medal he received after making a recent trip back to Korea where he had served as a Marine nearly 50 years ago. Above: Arnold helps South Korean children with their English outside of McDonald's in a South Korean city during his trip last month.

“

The scariest I was in my life was the first night I was there.”

- Gene Arnold

VISIT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF WAR

LISA COBLE
Hastings Tribune

TRUMBULL — Gene Arnold knows that in war, your eyes and ears can play tricks on you. The former Marine remembers moments during the Korean War when his senses fooled him — thinking that a firefly was a missile, that the wind was the enemy Chinese and North Korean soldiers. In the half-century that has passed since the Korean War, Arnold and his wife, Helen, have raised kids and

farmed near Trumbull.

But time has not faded his war memories, especially since those memories were dredged up again last month during a return trip to South Korea, officially the Republic of Korea. Arnold, a member of the Clay County Board of Supervisors, toured the Republic of Korea with his wife Sept. 12-18. “South Korea has changed 100 percent since the war,” Arnold said. “When I was there before, the cities were bogged out. There was nothing there. Now, it’s beautiful country. The

economy is flourishing.”

South Korea’s cities have been rebuilt, and crops and fields, predominately rice paddies, are fertile and everywhere one looks. “They have all new roads. Their highways are big super highways. When I was there it was all dirt roads and the speed limit was 25,” Arnold said. South Korea now has a McDonald’s, cars and apartments. Before, natives walked and rode bicycles. Children had few clothes and people lived in shacks, Arnold said.

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Better late than never

TRIBLAND WELCOMES THREE DAYS OF RAIN

REBECCA SVEC
Hastings Tribune

Any other year, the recent weather pattern wouldn’t warrant as much attention. But after a summer when drought covered Tribland like a cloud, three wet days are somewhat of a novelty. The recent weather system brought sights that were scarce since spring — mud, puddles, hazy-gray skies, windshield wipers on high, and the chance to stand at windows watching sheets of rain. As of 7 a.m. today, Hastings had received a 72-hour rain total of 1.59 inches. That amount included .92 of an inch recorded for the 24-hour period ending this morning, .09 for the day ending at 7 a.m. Thursday, and .58 for the day ending at 7 a.m. Wednesday. A strong upper-level system carried in the moisture. As meteorologists watched its progress, they knew it could carry substantial widespread

moisture, Braun said. It did. Rainfall totals include Clay Center’s 2.68 inches, which fell over a three-day-period. Red Cloud received a total of 2.23 inches from the system so far. Hebron had 1.86 inches of rain overnight and .17 inches prior. Geneva had 1.75 inches overnight. Some parts of Fillmore County have reported more than 4 inches in rain gauges since Tuesday evening. The storm dropped .88 inches on Minden over a two-day period. The slow rains will help alleviate the drought a bit or temporarily, Braun said. “Every little bit helps.” The system carried mainly heavy rain to the Tribland area — the kind of calm rain many looked for in July and August, but it never came. Ironically, it arrived as area farmers begin to harvest drought-stunted crops or crops that soaked up weeks of irrigation moisture.

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Bank shooting suspect claims innocence in letter

The Associated Press

NORFOLK — A suspect in the shootings that left five people dead at a US Bank branch has sent a letter to the local newspaper that claims he is innocent and the killer is still on the loose. “The real murderer is out there still. My bet is, he’s in Mexico by now. ... Instead of me in here, they should have the real person,” Jose Sandoval wrote in a two-page, handwritten letter sent to the Norfolk Daily News from the Madison County Jail. Sandoval, 23, of Norfolk is one of four men charged with murder in the Sept. 26 killings. The letter had Sandoval’s name printed on the envelope along with a stamp that said it was written by a person being detained at the Madison County Jail. The two-page letter was handwritten in pencil and signed “ALWAYS AND FOREVER, -KSM-.” The newspaper turned over



Sandoval

the letter to investigators. “I laugh I joke about all of this bull because I know I’m innocent (sic). In the end, God will prevail! I put my life in God’s hands now, not the courts,” the letter said. Madison County Attorney Joe Smith said police will follow up on any leads that might be produced from the letter. He said he was not familiar with the name of the person Sandoval accused in the shootings. The Daily News did not release the name. Sandoval’s attorney, Madison County Public Defender Harry Moore, would not comment on whether the letter was from his client. Smith said the signature may be some sort of gang-related sign. The suspects had been reported by police to have been involved in gangs. The other suspects are Jorge Galindo, 21, Erick Fernando Vela, 21, and Gabriel Rodriguez, 26, all of Madison. If convicted, all the men could be sentenced to die in Nebraska’s electric chair.

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Superior traffic stop turns into all-night operation

AUTHORITIES END UP WITH METH MESS ON THEIR HANDS

ANDY RAUN
Hastings Tribune

SUPERIOR — “It was a rather long night.” That’s how Nuckolls County Sheriff Jim Marr summarizes events here

overnight Wednesday, when an evening traffic stop by a deputy sheriff turned into an hours-long ordeal and left Superior law enforcement and emergency services agencies temporarily homeless. Business was returning to normal by Thursday afternoon, allowing Marr a few minutes to look back on what transpired and relate the complex tale to a reporter. According to Marr, here’s what happened:

About 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Deputy Sheriff Brad Baker responded to a call from a concerned citizen who lives along Nebraska Highway 14 north of Superior. The caller reported that a young woman had stopped at his house for some reason and was acting strangely. “She had stopped by the farmhouse, and the guy thought she was drunk,” Marr said. Baker caught up with the 18-year-old

Kansas woman about four miles north of Superior, made a traffic stop, and ended up arresting her for alleged drug possession. The woman was traveling alone. Baker impounded the vehicle the woman was driving. The vehicle was parked inside the garage at Superior’s Public Safety Building, which houses its police, fire and rescue departments, so officers could search it and take inventory of the contents.

Before the search could begin, however, the woman advised authorities to proceed with caution. “She told us we might not want to inventory it,” the sheriff said. As it turned out, the vehicle contained various elements used in the manufacture of methamphetamine — items like rock salt, lithium batteries, sulfuric acid, ether and anhydrous ammonia.

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Weather

Lo: 42
Hi: 65

Mostly clear tonight. Partly cloudy Saturday.



Art by Cody Gilliland, 8, Lincoln School

State

three children were relinquished by their mother, Billie Henry, last month, Hall County Judge Philip Martin said Thursday. The father of the two girls, 25-year-old Jamie Henry, was convicted of two counts of felony child abuse for using a 24-inch electric

cattle prod on his oldest daughter and stepson and striking the two with plastic hangers, shoes, a belt and his hand. The abuse occurred in early 2001 while the family was living near Wood River.

The Associated Press

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Courtesy Gene Arnold

Children play outside a home in Korea in 1952.



Courtesy
Gene Arnold

Left: Gene Arnold poses by a tree at the Forward Ammunition Supply Depot near Panmunjom in 1952. Below: A flashing sign overlooks the demilitarized zone today.

Korea: Visit brings back memories

Continued from page A1

North Korea's agriculture and economy haven't rebounded as well, Arnold said, although he was not able to enter the country.

The Korean War, 1950-53, established South Korea as a democracy and ended North Korea's Communist advances past the 38th parallel.

But tensions between North and South have eased little since the war, Arnold said.

A few trains run across the border and a few officials also are allowed across.

Negotiations between the countries' leaders take place in a building astride the border. A peace table in that building is split right down the middle, with North Koreans sitting on one side and South Koreans on the other.

There were certain precautions the tour group had to take before touring the border town of Panmunjom in South Korea, Arnold said.

"We had to dress nice when we went into Panmunjom. (North Koreans) have video cameras on," he said. "We couldn't wear anything sloppy. They will use that as propaganda. They'll say how sloppy Americans are."

A giant lighted sign sits on top of the demilitarized zone, a fenced-in restricted area between the two countries. The sign is used for propaganda against each other and against other countries' governments.

Each country's military still has guns pointed toward each other, prepared for another attack, Arnold said.

He said in some places the DMZ is within gun shot — 500 yards wide — because North Koreans have moved the fences in at night.

American troops are stationed in South Korea as peacekeepers.

In 1952 Arnold arrived at the Forward Ammunition Supply Depot near Panmunjom — not more than five miles away from the front lines of the Korean War, he said.

That's when the horrors of war became real to him for the first time.



"The scariest I was in my life was the first night I was there. We were on guard all night. We didn't know where the Chinese was. You saw bushes move, but you see, that was just your imagination," he said.

The wind had moved the bushes, not the enemy.

But there were times in Korea that Arnold had feared for his life.

His job as a corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps was to drive a Jeep and deliver orders to other military units.

"A lot of times artillery from our own army was shooting over our heads," he said.

He remembers seeing tracers of missiles and rockets in the night air.

Once, he thought one was coming right at his vehicle.

But it wasn't a missile; it was only a firefly that splattered the windshield.

Arnold's eight-day tour took him on roads he remembers driving during the war, but he couldn't get to the place he was stationed.

"It was a restricted zone," he said.

The group was, however, able to get into a lot of places Arnold thought would have been restricted.

"We got to go up in the (Marine)

outpost and look across to North Korea. We could see the DMZ. We really got in there. They took us down into the tunnels, too."

He visited the Korean War Museum in Seoul, the capital of South Korea, where he found the name of a fallen soldier and friend, First Lt. Alann Harris.

Harris stepped on a land mine and died.

"I was supposed to be with him that day," Arnold said.

About 37,000 American soldiers died in the three-year span of the war.

Even though the return trip brought up sad memories, Arnold said he had a good time.

"It was fun to relive," he said. "I would recommend it to any veteran I know."

Arnold also visited the Iron Triangle in Chorwan Valley, White Horse Battle Monument, the Punchbowl Battle Museum and Freedom Bridge and the Bridge of No Return, both of which are closed.

The veterans who took the tour were awarded medals, pins and a letter of gratitude from South Korea on the last night of their stay.

Superior: Traffic stop turns into all-night vigil

Continued from page A1

With volatile materials on board, the vehicle presented a risk of fire, explosion or other incident. The local authorities called for assistance.

In the meantime, they had to evacuate their building, removing the fire and rescue vehicles and other equipment. They set up a command post at the city offices nearby and guarded the Public Safety Building while awaiting the arrival of the Nebraska Clan Lab Team, a group of experts in dismantling meth labs.

All law enforcement and emergency dispatching for Nuckolls County is handled out of the Sheriff's Office in Nelson, so those services were not affected by the evacuation.

Superior volunteer firefighters and ambulance crew members were called into service to help with the evacuation and night watch. The Superior Fire Department Auxiliary provided food for the workers.

About 5 a.m. Thursday, a hazardous-materials team from the Kansas City area arrived to collect the vehicle's contents and take them away for safe disposal.

Marr said no one was injured or made ill by coming into contact with anything in the vehicle.

"It was all boxed up," he said. "(The driver) was moving it."

Still, he said, the incident was cause for concern, and he appreciated the way the community's volunteers responded.

"We want to thank everyone who helped us through this ordeal," he said.

Charges against the Kansas woman are pending, Marr said.

'Clan Lab' gets grant

Hastings Tribune

The team that helped dispose of the makings of a meth lab in a car in Superior Wednesday has received a grant to purchase new equipment.

The Nebraska Clandestine Laboratory "Clan Lab" Team received the \$76,794 grant Wednesday.

According to a news release from U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., the U.S. Department of Justice awarded the grant for the purchase of equipment used in the forensic lab for testing the purity of drugs.

The Clan Lab team is composed of representatives from the Omaha U.S. Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Nebraska State Patrol, Omaha Police Department, Grand Island Police Department and Adams County Sheriff's Office.

She remained lodged at the Nuckolls County Jail in Nelson this morning.

Situations like Wednesday's may seem bizarre, the sheriff said, but they go hand in hand with the growing meth problem in this area, and something similar may happen in the future.

"This is something I think you're going to see more and more of in rural Nebraska," he said.

Group gets funding for Golden Spike

The Associated Press

NORTH PLATTE — One very large spike is about to be driven into the ground of this railroad community.

Organizers behind a 15-story observation tower in the shape of a railroad spike and overlooking the world's largest rail classification yard said Thursday they had secured all the funding needed for the \$6.3 million project.

The final funding piece for the 150-foot Golden Spike Tower and visitor's center was a \$4.1 million rural development loan from the U.S. Department

of Agriculture announced Thursday.

Community fund-raising efforts the past five years have brought in more than \$2 million for the project.

Preliminary construction could start next month, said Diane Kolkman, president of the development project. The tower could open to the public in early 2004.

The idea behind the tower is to provide some place for the multitude of railroad buffs that pass through North Platte each year to get a glimpse of Union Pacific's Bailey Yard.

Bank: Suspect claims innocence

Continued from page A1

Police believe Sandoval, Galindo and Vela were the gunmen that stormed the bank, shooting four bank employees and a customer each in the head within 40 seconds. Rodriguez is accused of scouting out the locations of bank employees shortly before the shootings.

US Bank will open a temporary branch office next week, spokesman Steve Dale said Thursday night from his Minneapolis home. More details were expected early in the week.

Bank officials have not made a decision about the fate of branch where the shootings took place, Dale said.

The letter refers to Galindo, who Sandoval claims is accusing him of the shootings because Galindo is scared of the man who actually committed the crimes.

Sandoval wrote that he is not being treated right in jail and that he wants to go home and

Letter to the editor

The Associated Press

Excerpts from a two-page, handwritten letter sent to the Norfolk Daily News from the Madison County Jail. The name on the envelope was Jose Sandoval, one of the suspects in last week's bank killings in Norfolk:

To the editor, ...

I say this for the Record. I'm inocent (sic) and the Real murderer is out there still. My bet is, he's in Mexico by now. ...

Instead of me in here, they should have the real person. For the Record, if they find him I'll still be here because they know I'll sue!

I laugh I joke about all this bull because I know I'm inocent (sic). In the end, God will prevail! I put my life in God's hands now, not the courts. The Government makes me look bad and ya make me look bad as well. The only reason why Galindo says it's me because he's afraid of him. He is the dangerous type and pretty smart! When Galindo says he was the 3rd person instead of me then I'll have the last word.

The reason why I write this letter is because they don't treat me right in here. I'm tired of all this (expletive)! I want to go home ... and live like any normal person.

ALWAYS & FOREVER
-KSM-

"live like any normal person."

Police also were continuing to investigate the disappearance of Sandoval's roommate, 19-year-old Travis Lundell.

Capt. Leon Chapman said he did not know if Sandoval had been questioned about Lundell, who was living with Sandoval before he was reported missing Aug. 23.

Rain: Better late than never

Continued from page A1

"Of course, you can't put the order in when you want it," said Terry Hejny, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension educator for Fillmore, Thayer and Nuckolls counties.

He doesn't expect the wet ground to dry up soon.

"This time of year, to get more than 2 inches of rain when it only gets to 50 or 60 degrees during the day, it takes a while to dry things out."

The ground may have absorbed

the first rains, Hejny said, but driving from Geneva to Hebron Friday morning he saw substantial water sitting in the fields.

But timing may be the only complaint from farmers, he said.

In a year as dry as 2002, "we need all the moisture we can get," Hejny said.

The rain will slow harvest and could cause soil compaction problems next spring, he said, but it will help going into winter.

"I really was not looking forward to having dry weather

through winter, if by chance we had cold temperatures and no moisture."

The rain hasn't left yet. More showers are possible today, with a high of 62 degrees. Temperatures are expected to reach down to the lower 40s this evening. Saturday will be partly cloudy with a high temperature of 65 degrees. More showers are possible Saturday night and Sunday.

A chance of rain continues Tuesday and Wednesday.

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