

# NEBRASKA OES NEWS

Volume 17 Number 1 ~June, 2016

“Trails of Faith”



## Jottings from Jan

Don't forget you can download Newsletters in color and find lots of information on our Web-site: <http://neoes.org>

**Please note that Grand Chapter will be moving. New address begins July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016:**

**Grand Chapter of Nebraska  
301 North Cotner Boulevard  
Suite 200  
Lincoln NE 68505-2315**

### THANK YOU:

WOW! A huge thank you to all of the Sisters and Brothers who participated in any of the marches at Grand Chapter. They turned out wonderfully! We hope that each of you had as much fun as we did.

Lovingly 'Left, Right, Left',  
Bev Donham, Dee Schuetz, and Cyn Norman, your March Directors

### Getting to know our Worthy Grand Matron – Cheryl Beckius

I was born in North Platte to Dale and Ruth Russell on June 3, 1948. At that time we lived at Eustis, Ne. I have one sister, Dianne (Orv Wiberg) currently of Loup City and member of Signet Chapter #55 and Grand Island Andrew Chapter #41. In 1951 we moved to Ogallala where I attended public school. I participated in band playing the tenor saxophone and Concert choir and Mixed Madrigal. Graduating with the Class of 1966. During those years we were members of the First Congregational Church and Dianne and I were both members of Ogallala Bethel #21 of Jobs Daughters. Our father was the Associate Grand Guardian for part of those years. After high school I attended and graduated from Lincoln School of

Commerce, accounting courses. My parents and I joined Ogallala Chapter #142 in November of 1967. During this time we also transferred our membership to the First United Methodist Church.

I married a fellow class mate, Bernard Beckius on October 6, 1968. We had three children. Christine, Justin and Carrie. Justin was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at the age of 8 and developed complication from the disease around the age of 30. He passed away September 13, 2005 at the age of 33. Christine is married to Will McKnight and they have 2 daughters, Cody Ware McKnight Hartman and Jaycee McKnight. Justin was married to Teri Nicewonger. They had 3 children, Donald Wells, Jessica Beckius, and Cole Beckius. Teri has now married Jake Elmshaeuser. Carrie is married to Dan Knapp. Christine and Teri both live in Ogallala and Carrie lives in Paxton. Daughters Christine and Carrie, and granddaughters Cody and Jaycee all belong to Ogallala Chapter # 142, where Carrie is currently Worthy Matron, Christine is Treasurer and Jaycee is Sentinel.

I was Worthy Matron for the first time in 1977, the year Carrie was born and served as Worthy Matron numerous times since then. I was appointed Grand Martha in 1999 by H Marlene Jones and Jim Boshart, the “God Makes All Things New” Grand Family. It was during that year that the Grand Family initiated Bernard into Ogallala Chapter #142 during our Grand Officers Visitation meeting. I served as a District Grand Supervisor in 1999, 2001 – 2005, and 2013-2014. I was then appointed in 2012 by PGM Judy Wehrbein and PGP Alvin Benemerito as Grand Warder for the “Spirit of the Star” Grand Family. I have truly been blessed by the loving members of this great state of Nebraska. I am humbled and excited at the same time to be your Worthy Grand Matron and am looking forward to the “Trails of Faith” coming year of traveling this great state and meeting with all of you again.

### Getting to know our Worthy Grand Patron – Gary Brhel

I was born in Lincoln and raised on a farm west of Denton, NE. I attended a one-room country schoolhouse thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade near Denton. I graduated from Crete High School in Crete, NE then attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln where I graduated in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in Agronomy. After college I worked in various positions for the Nebraska Department of Roads and retired after 42 years.

We have two daughters. Christine and husband Jaimie live in Hawarden, IA and have two children, Elizabeth and Jacob. Sherie and husband Brian live in Plano, TX and also have 2 children, Alex and Anna. My first wife Marie died after 45 years of marriage. We lived all our married life in Pleasant Dale, NE. In 2014, I married my long time Sister in Star, Pam, and moved to Lincoln.

I was raised to a Master Mason in the mid 1970's in Blue River Lodge #30 in Milford, NE where I have served in various offices and several times as Master of the Lodge. I was initiated into Blue River Chapter #132 OES in Milford in 1978. I have held various positions in Star and have served as Worthy Patron many times. I was appointed Grand Chaplain in 2006 by Betty Kirby and Bill Parrish. In 2013 Beverly Donham and Jim Dusch appointed me Grand Sentinel. I am pleased to say that our two daughters and son-in-law Jaimie are members of Blue River Chapter in Milford.

*Dear Sisters & Brothers,*

*My very sincere thank you to each of you for the wonderful gift that was presented to me on Thursday at the Grand Chapter session. I was so pleased and honored to be invited and recognized by Past Grand Matron Brenda and Past Grand Patron Delbert. Each of you are such a blessing to me and the Order of Eastern Star. Thank you for my gift, your thoughtfulness, and your years of friendship and support. In Star Love,*

*Mary E. Slapp*

## THE "TRAILS OF FAITH" CALENDAR

(As space permits in the newsletter - I will try to list your Chapter Events)  
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE JULY NEWS BY JUNE 15

- Jun 4 Shrine Bowl Parade & Shrine Bowl Game
- Jun 5 Reception Honoring WGP, and all Grand Officers, 2:00-4:00 CDT, Milford United Methodist Church, 610 Second St, Milford
- Jun 10-12 Rainbow Grand Assembly at Doane in Crete
- Jun 11 Martha Washington #153, Fish Fry dinner, \$10.00 per person, 4:30-7:00 pm, 4430 N. 70<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln
- Jun 15-18 Job's Daughter's Grand Bethel in Kearney
- Jun 16 Beulah Chapter #40, 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Eastern Star salad luncheon, 12:00 at the Masonic Center, 907 W. Norfolk Ave, Norfolk, \$6.00, entertainment will be "History of Shoes"
- Jun 25 Imperial Chapter #279, 3 person scramble golf tournament at Enders Lake golf course, Proceeds for scholarships, contact Barb Wood for more information
- Jul 1 Beulah Chapter #40, celebrating 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an ice cream social, 2 to 8 p.m., Masonic Center, 907 W. Norfolk Ave, Norfolk
- Jul 8 Area 2 Visitation – Friday evening (Chadron, Gordon, Hyannis)**
- Jul 9 Area 1 Visitation – Saturday noon (Scottsbluff, Bridgeport, Kimball, Mitchell)**
- Jul 13 Trinity Chapter #299, Card Party, 10:00-2:00
- Jul 23 Alpha Chapter #325, Pot Luck Dinner & Bottle Auction 5:00 pm, 1908 Franklin St, Bellevue
- Jul 31 Trinity Chapter #299 & Centennial Lodge, Corn Feed, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., 2424 S 135<sup>th</sup> Ave, Omaha

### 2017

Sept 23-24 6<sup>th</sup> Triennial Masonic Youth Leadership Conference in Kearney

### Enclosed with this OES News:

- ❖ Invitation to the Nebraska/Iowa fun weekend
- ❖ Grand Officer & Companion list for 2016-2017
- ❖ 5 State Information

~~~~DON'T FORGET!—YOU CAN POST YOUR EVENTS ON THE NEBRASKA OES WEB-SITE CALENDAR~~~~

**Visit us on the web at [neoes.org](http://neoes.org). See the Eastern Star Calendar by clicking on "Calendar"**

**Become a friend on Facebook at Nebraska Eastern Star**

**Call the Grand Chapter Office—402-727-8644 or 800-832-9320**

**We are here to help you in any way we can!**

# IOWA-NEBRASKA RANCH ROUND-UP

**AUGUST 12, 13 & 14, 2016**

**HELD IN THE “COWBOY CAPITAL” OF NEBRASKA,  
OGALLALA!**

In the 1800's, The Oregon Trail, Mormon Trail, Pony Express, Union Pacific and Texas Trail all crossed through Ogallala, providing a wealth of frontier history. Today you will find Ogallala right on the I-80 Trail. Come and join us for a rip-roarin' good time and explore the Old West in Ogallala.

**Friday**, when you get into town, you'll want to find the bunk house, (**Stagecoach Inn**) and get your bedroll stowed away. It's a real nice place. I hear they got hot and cold runnin' water in every room! We will all be meetin' at the **Front Street Steakhouse and Crystal Palace Saloon** at 5:00 p.m. to say “Howdy” and greet our friends. They will have the chow on for us at 5:30 p.m. They are servin' Chicken Fried Chicken with mashed potatoes and gravy, salad, rolls, coffee, tea or soda. Now it is a saloon, so y'all can have a sip of whiskey, if you have some of those gold coins in your pocket. I understand that just before sundown, there's going to be a gun fight and then we will all be entertained by the Crystal Palace Revue. And fellas, they have “dancin' girls”, so you sure don't want to miss it!

**Saturday morning** you are on your own to explore all the Cowboy history of Ogallala or sleep, if you'd rather! I will give you a list of interestin' places to see. There is the **Mansion on the Hill** – An authentic Victorian style home built in 1887. It is located on 10<sup>th</sup> and N. Spruce St.

Not far from there, you'll find the **Boot Hill Cemetery**. It dates back to the early Texas Trail days and was the final resting place for cowboys, drifters, and settlers, who helped make Ogallala a booming cow town.

**The Historic Walk of Fame** features historic markers depicting all facets of transportation that helped form the West. Watch for markers on downtown streets.

**Tri-Trails Park** marks the area where three major historic trails passed through Keith County. It is located on Road West 80 and Lawrence Rd.

**Spruce Street Station Visitors Center** is a Standard Oil Red Crown filling station, built in 1922.

**The Trail's End gift, antiques & collectibles** is located at 502 E First St.

If you are a quilter, you will want to stop by the **Silver Thimble** at 108 N Spruce St.

You will also find a **Farmer's Market** going on in Rendezvous Square on E 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

**YOU MAY HAVE LUNCH ON YOUR OWN AT ONE OF THE MANY PLACES IN TOWN**

.....**But be sure to be back to the Bunkhouse by 1:00 p.m.**

We will be loading up all the wagons (cars) and hittin' the trail for the afternoon. Our first stop will be at the **Petrified Wood & Art Gallery**, a highly-acclaimed gallery of fine art, natural history, ancient woods and fossils. Next we will follow the trail north of town to **Lake McConaughy** and stop at the **Visitor/Water Interpretive Center near Kingsley Dam**. The facility features Nebraska's first water interpretive center. In addition to wildlife and natural history related films, there is a video of the construction of Kingsley Dam. You will have plenty of time to look around and check out the gift shop. We will drive across the dam and travel east to the **Little Church at Keystone**. A one of a kind, Catholic-Protestant Church built in 1908. Our final stop will be at the famous **Haythorn Ranch**. Here you will be able to look around, get yourself a cold drink (with those gold coins) and visit with friends. They will be servin' us up some supper at 7:00 p.m. We will be havin' some of that great Nebraska beef brisket, sandhill potatoes, cowboy beans, pasta salad, rolls, tea or coffee and a sweet bite of dessert. After you have filled up your belly, you will be able to set back and enjoy the humor of Cowboy Poet, Dave Knight.

**Sunday morning**, bright and early, (8:30 a.m.) we will all meet at the Masonic Temple (1005 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St.) in Ogallala for rolls and coffee and our church service.

**HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME AND THANKS FOR SPENDIN'**



**!OUR WEEK-END WITH US!!!**

**\*\*\*Please make your own hotel room reservations** by calling the Stagecoach Inn at 308-284-3656. The rooms are \$69.00 plus tax. They serve a hot breakfast. The block of rooms will be held until August 5<sup>th</sup> under the name, Nebraska Order of the Eastern Star. Don't wait to make your reservations. Call Now!!

\*\*\*\*The cost for dinner on Friday night is \$22.00 per person and the Revue is \$12.00 per person. Total \$34.00. That includes tax and gratuity.

\*\*\*\*The cost for dinner and entertainment on Saturday night is \$30.00 per person and that includes tax and gratuity.

\*\*\*\*Attire for the week-end is casual and comfortable.

The "Trail Boss" for this here round-up is **Jean Smith**, so please send your reservations to her at:

8901 Truchard Rd.,  
Lincoln, NE. 68526  
Ph: 402-890-4704

email: [jmsmith504@aol.com](mailto:jmsmith504@aol.com)

Please return the bottom portion of this page with your check for the meals. Make your check payable to Jean Smith.

**Reservations are due by JULY 30, 2016.**

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_ X \$64.00 = \_\_\_\_\_