

**Blue Springs**

**Fire Department**

**&**

**Fire Belles**

# Main Street Hair Design

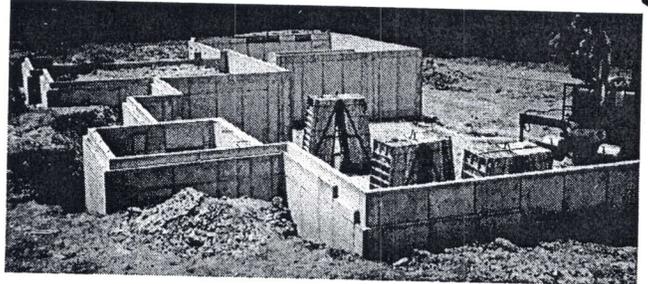
Owner – Lori Novotny



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Owner – Jay Lloyd  
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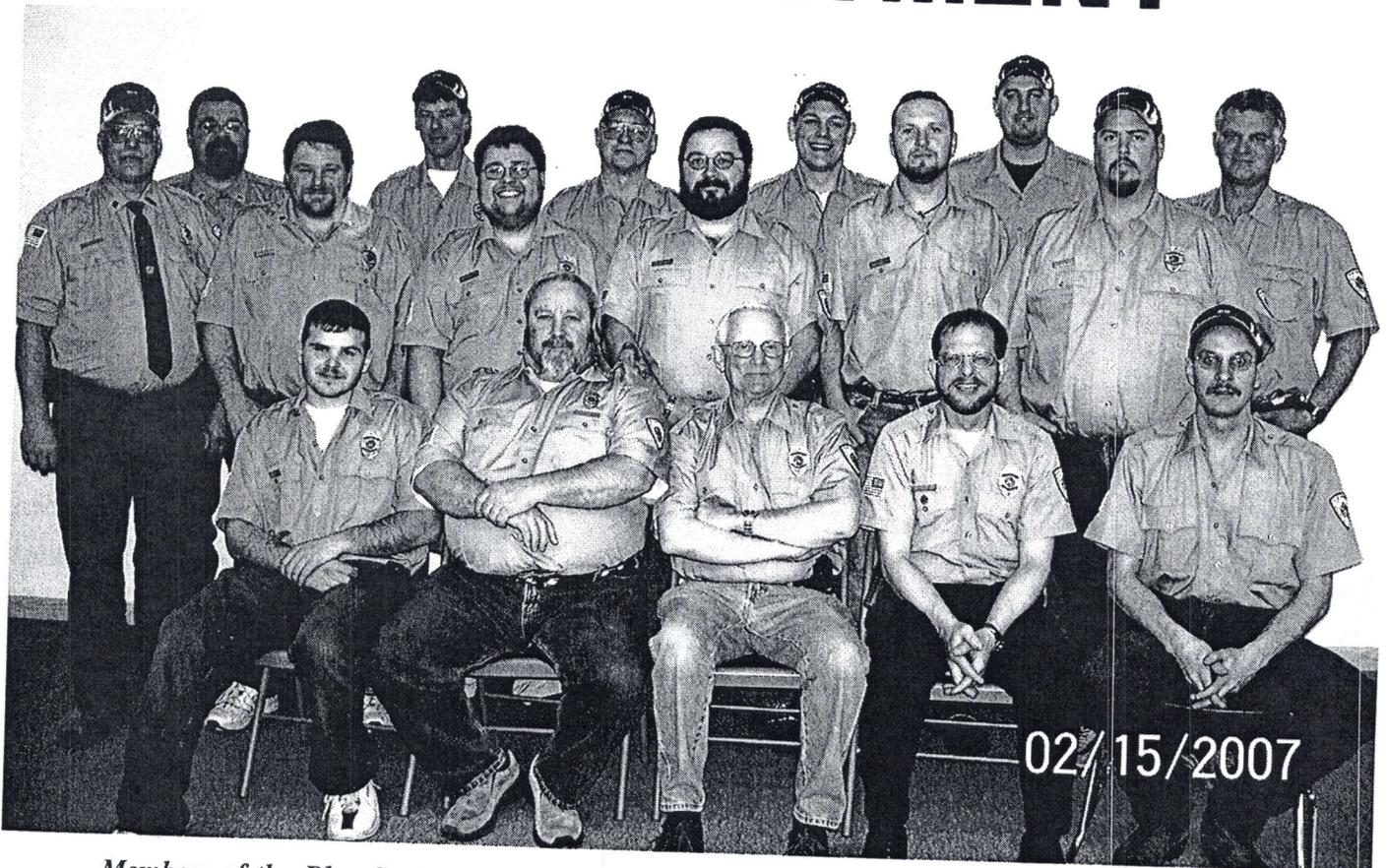
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Gage County**

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BLUE SPRINGS**

# FIRE DEPARTMENT



*Members of the Blue Springs Volunteer Fire Department for 2007 are, back row, left to right, Dave Forke (Assistant Chief), Fred Naumann (Secretary/Treasurer), Brad Robinson (Fire Chief), Clint Bartels, Travis Schmidt (Assistant Truck Foreman), Steve Johnson, Steve Matthews, Hunter Hopkins, Andrew Devol, Jesse Houseman, Roy Hereth (Truck Foreman) and Lonnie Meyer. Front row, left to right, Derrick Guiffre, Larry Hohensee, Melvin Thomas, Alan Riensche and Robert Bradley. Not pictured was Brian Forke, Scott Hopkins, Adam Hopkins and Tom Creek.*

## **Blue Springs Volunteer Fire Department**

On June 9, 1894 the by-laws were approved for the Blue Springs Hose Company Number One. The first Fire Captain was William Black. Fire fighting equipment included hose carts, hose and drag ropes. Equipment was housed in a small building by the existing stand-pipe.

In 1896, the Blue Springs Hose Company was re-named the Blue Springs Volunteer Fire Department.

In 1928, the department was re-organized under the new Fire Chief, E.E. Morrow. The department purchased its first fire truck. The 1928 Chevrolet truck was equipped with a chemical tank.

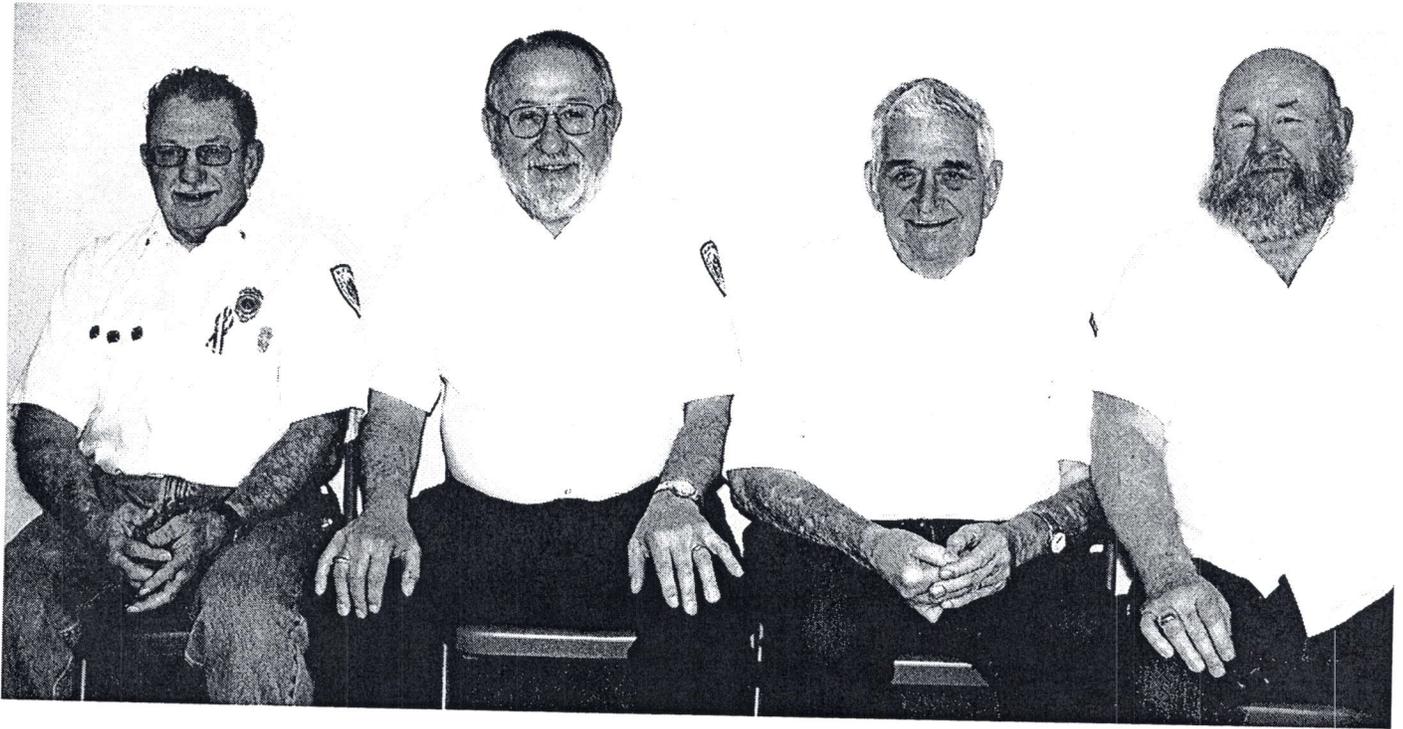
In 1941, the department purchased a new truck and the Blue Springs Rural Fire District was established. It was the third such organization in the state of Nebraska. The district covers 78 square miles.

In 1954, the Department purchased a new pumper truck.

In 1963, the members of the Blue Springs Volunteer Fire Department incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation. The non-profit corporation was established for the purpose of promoting educational, civic, patriotic, social and athletic events in the community. Through its history, the corporation has funded a baseball field, snack shack and restrooms, uniforms, Christmas lights, thousands of dollars of fire fighting tools, gear and apparatus. The corporation is also responsible for building and maintaining the Fireman's Memorial Hall located on the two hundred block of East Broad Street.

By 1966, the department had outgrown its original building on Broad Street and a 40'x 80' building was purchased from the U.S. Forestry Service. The Building was erected by the volunteer firefighters on the one hundred block of East Broad Street.

In the early 1980's the Department had two pumper trucks, three grass rigs (jeeps) from the Forest Service, and a van. By the end of the 1990's the department



would upgrade all its equipment by purchasing a more modern pumper, 1600 gallon tanker, and three 4X4 pick-up trucks for grass and wild-land fires. Grass rig one a 1998 GMC 3/4 ton truck was purchased and outfitted by the membership and leads the present fleet of vehicles.

In 2006, the members of the Blue Springs Volunteer Fire Department completed work on a new park shelter in Blue Springs Feit Park.

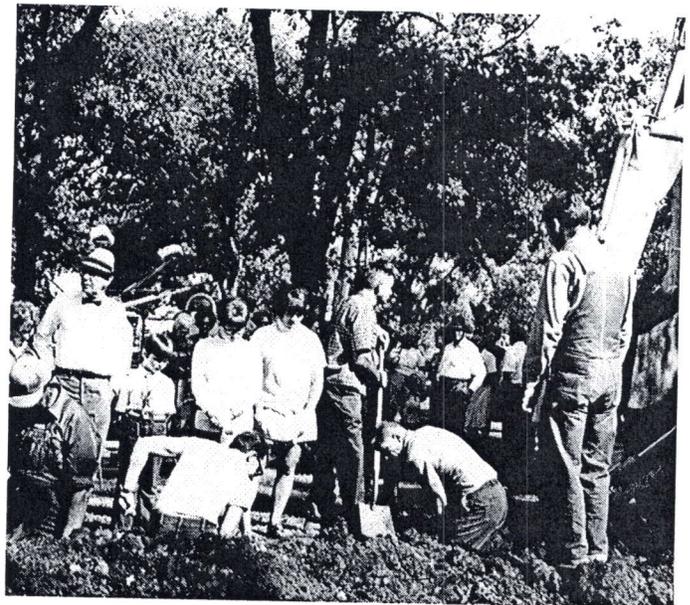
Officers for 2007 include Brad Robinson, Fire Chief; Dave Forke, Assistant Fire Chief; Loren "Roy" Hereth, Truck Foreman; Travis Schmidt, Assistant Truck Foreman; and Fred Naumann, Secretary/Treasurer.

*Honorary members of the Blue Springs Volunteer Fire Department are Robert Allen, 41 years; Delbert Bartels, 41 years, Willard Scheele, 40 years and Marv Norman, 15 years.*

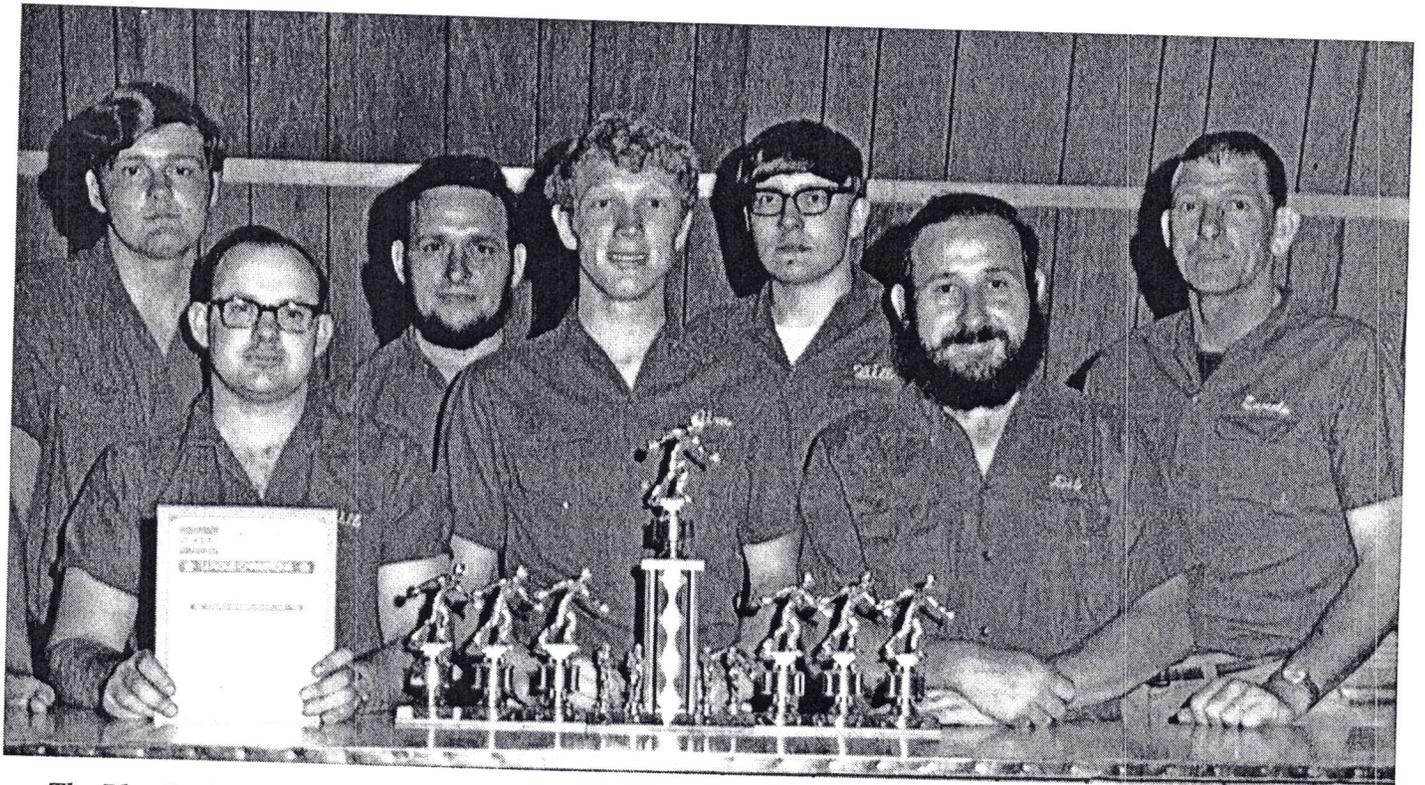
*(right) Elwin "Fuzz" Morris, 57 years.*



*Water fights were popular at the Blue Springs Picnics.*



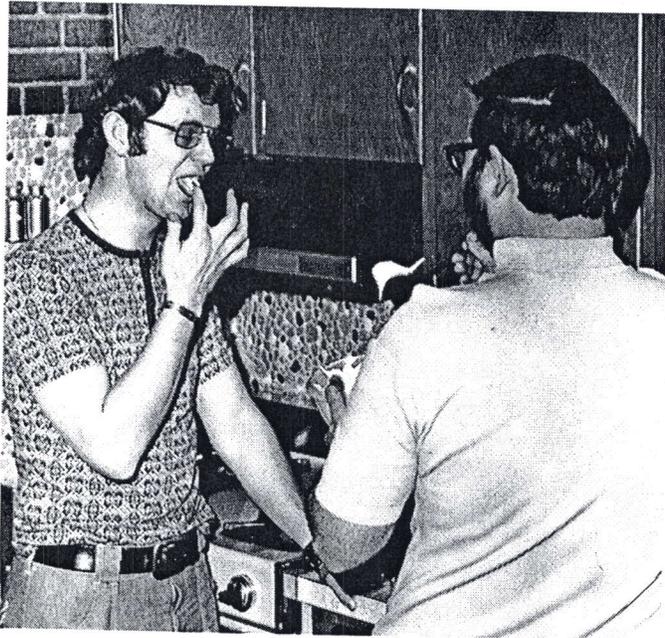
*Firemen digging the barbecue pit that fed 691 people in 1969.*



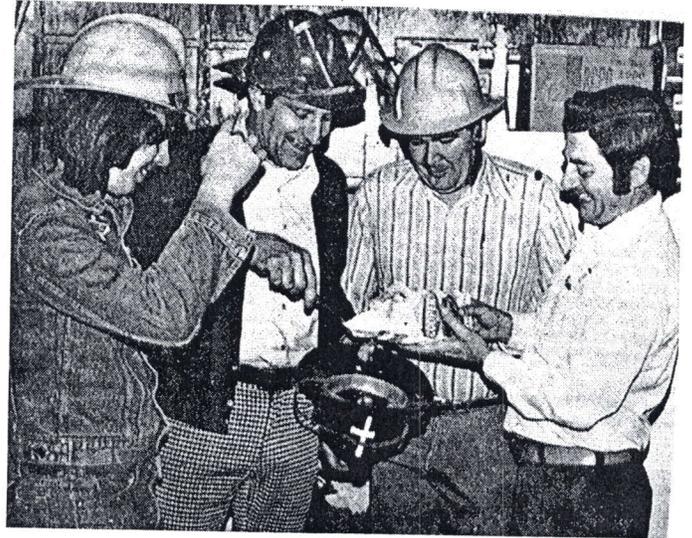
*The Blue Springs Volunteer Fire Department Bowling team. (front from left) Bill Allen, Jim Philippi and Delbert Bartels. (back) Frank Swanson, Willard Scheele, Bill Swanson and Swede Swanson.*



*Games for kids at the Blue Springs picnic.*



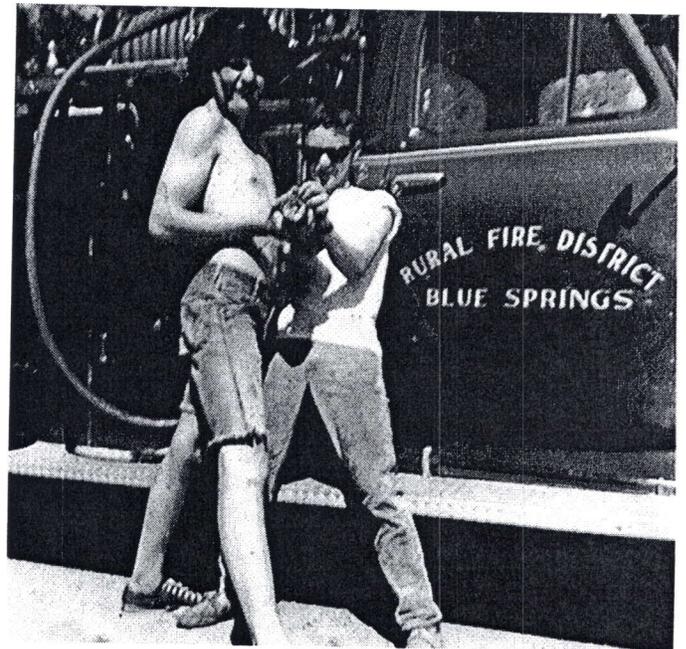
*Dean Cole and Dale Carpenter tasting cake batter for the March of Dimes cakes the fire department made.*



**A HELMET MAKES A HANDY BOWL** for Blue Springs Volunteer Firemen, who whipped up a pancake feed, March 2, 1975, to earn funds for playground equipment for the Blue Springs park project. Firemen (from left) David Thoman, Lee Morris and Danny Colgrove stirs up some fun with Daryl Schweer of Farmers Union Co-op Co., Blue Springs, the firm donating pancake flour for the feed. The feed netted about \$190 to go toward the playground, part of an extensive park improvement project in Blue Springs, according to John Feit of the fire department.



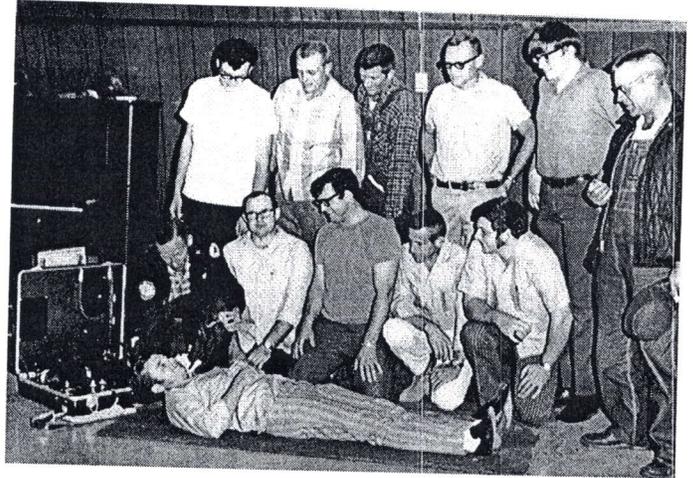
*In 1967 this plaque was presented to Elwin "Fuzz" Morris (right) of Blue Springs by Swede Swanson representing the Blue Springs Volunteer Fire Department and Junior Fire Patrol at the picnic. The award was for the year's outstanding Blue Springs Volunteer Fireman was presented every year.*



*Frank Swanson and Dean Cole washing the fire trucks.*



*These Blue Springs Volunteer Firemen with the trophy on Feb. 19, 1973 at the Beatrice March of Dimes Cake Auction. (from left) Dale Carpenter, Swede Swanson and Bob Allen.*



*Blue Springs EMC class.*



*Firemen getting wood for the barbecue pit.*



*Bob Allen, Dean Cole and John Feit at Feit's Park before it was cleaned up.*



*John Feit, Wyman Smith and Loren Thoman with their awards.*



*Delbert Bartels, John Feit, Bob Allen and Danny Colgrove standing by a fire truck.*

## *Blue Springs Fireman's Memorial Hall*



Taken at the 7/3/1995 meeting - After much discussion among the Blue Springs Firemen Corporation members it was brought before the board that we build a building in memory of all the firemen who gave their dedicated time and efforts in response to the fire department's demands.

The corporation was to use the sales of pickle card funds to procure the lots and ground to build

the proposed building, everything being legal and we can buy the lots from Gage County and Florence Marples. Motion by Willard Scheele and second by Marvin Norman, motion carried.

Taken at the 7/17/1995 Meeting - Special meeting called to order by Corporation President Larry Hohensee. Motion by Larry Hohensee and second by Willard Scheele to put in bid to Gage County for east 1/2 lot for the sum of \$10.00 and \$150.00 to Florence Marples for lot #6. Motion carried.

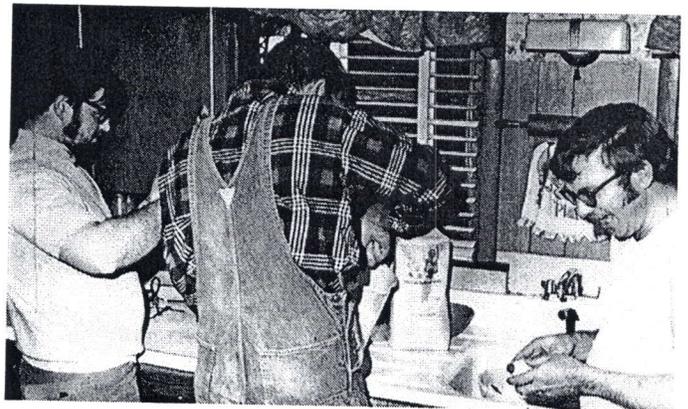
Taken at the 9/4/1995 Meeting - After 64 yards of dirt being hauled into the building site, construction was commenced, January 1, 1996. Construction of building completed using corporation funds from pickle account. The building is 60 feet long and 40 feet wide consisting of a full kitchen with all appliances with two bath rooms and furnace room.

The building is air conditioned and heated with a heat pump. It is handicap accessible. The firemen presently rent out the building to the general public to help maintain the cost of utilities.

Submitted by Marvin Norman



*Fuzz Morris having fun at a Fireman's Party.*



*Dale Carpenter, Swede Swanson and Bob Allen practicing making a cake for the March of Dimes.*

### **1857**

Blue Springs and Beatrice had their beginning the same year, in the summer of 1857. For some years it was a hotly contested issue, which would become the county seat, but Beatrice was more centrally located, and for that and other reasons, it was finally selected.

# FIRE BELLES



*Members of the Fire Belles for 2007 are, back row, Donna Thoman, Angie Naumann, Anna Izer and Carol Allen. Front row, Linda Hohensee, Secretary; Angie Hereth, Vice-President; Elinor Petersen, Treasurer, and Heidi Forke, President. Not pictured were Teresa Robinson, Samantha Leach, and Dona Bartels.*

## ***Fire Belles***

The Fire Belles organized in 1955 when a group of firemen's wives met in the home of Donna Thoman. They planned to assist and encourage the firemen and to better the community.

The first officers elected were President - Mary Lee Schiermeyer; Vice-President - Donna Thoman; and Secretary-Treasurer - Viola Feit. Other charter members were: Berneice Ames, Clara Cullison, LauRene Foster, Lucille Morris, Mary Siebels, Myrtle Swanson, Dorothy Vasey, Arnola Zabokrtsky, Mary Ann Zook, Joan Chapman,

Agnes Creek, Edna Mae Day and Bernadine Hubbard.

In the early years, they met in the members homes and the city hall until 1968 when the fire hall was built.

Each year they have had a family Christmas party which has always included a visit from Santa. There have been Halloween costume parties, New Years Eve parties, farewell parties for firemen moving away, and theme parties such as box socials and surprise suppers. The group always enjoyed Christmas caroling followed by hot chocolate and cookies.

Projects have included bake sales, Easter egg hunts and flea markets, as well as giving donations to local drives, such as a street sign fund in Blue Springs. From 1957 to 1960 they took county extension lessons to improve their homes and families. They had cupboards built for the fire hall in 1970 and in 1975 began operating the food stand

for the Saturday night bingo. For a number of years they operated the food stand for the Firemens Annual Picnics. When the softball field was completed by the Firemen, the Fire Belles began operating a concession stand for the summer softball games in 1981. Another fun project was building and riding on floats for parades.

Projects the last few years have been twice a year trash pickup on highway 77, taking May bas-

kets to shut ins and furnishing drinks for the blood mobile.

Membership reached a high of 24 in 1967. Those belonging today are Heidi Forke - President; Angie Hereth - Vice-President; Linda Hohensee - Secretary; Elinor Petersen - Treasurer; other members are Donna Thoman, Carol Allen, Dona Bartels, Samantha Leach, Angie Naumann, Anna Izer and Teresa Robinson.



*Fire Belle Past Members – (front from left) Lucille Morris, Donna Thoman, Clara Cullison and Vi Feit. (back) Janet Roberts, Cecelia Seachord, Elinor Peterson, Bernice Mettscher, Linda Hohensee, Jennifer Wilson, Audrey Trauernicht, Carol Allen, Ruby Morris, Fern Colgrove, Linda Allen and Beulah Scheele.*



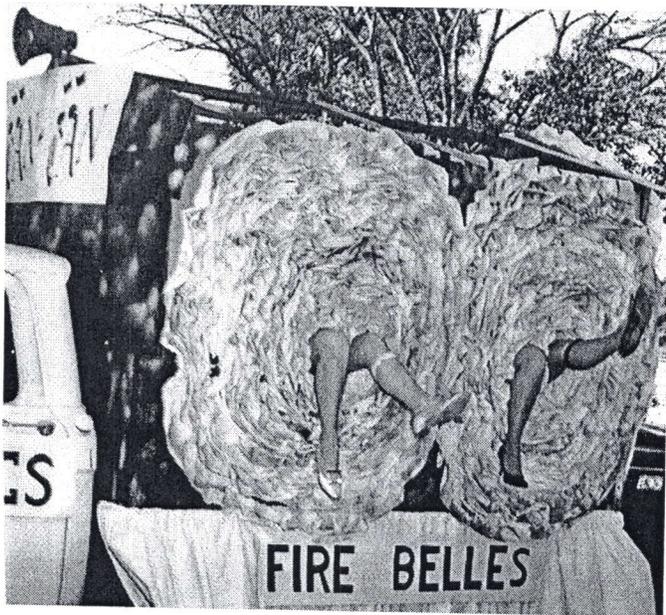
*Donna Thoman started the Fire Belles in 1955.*



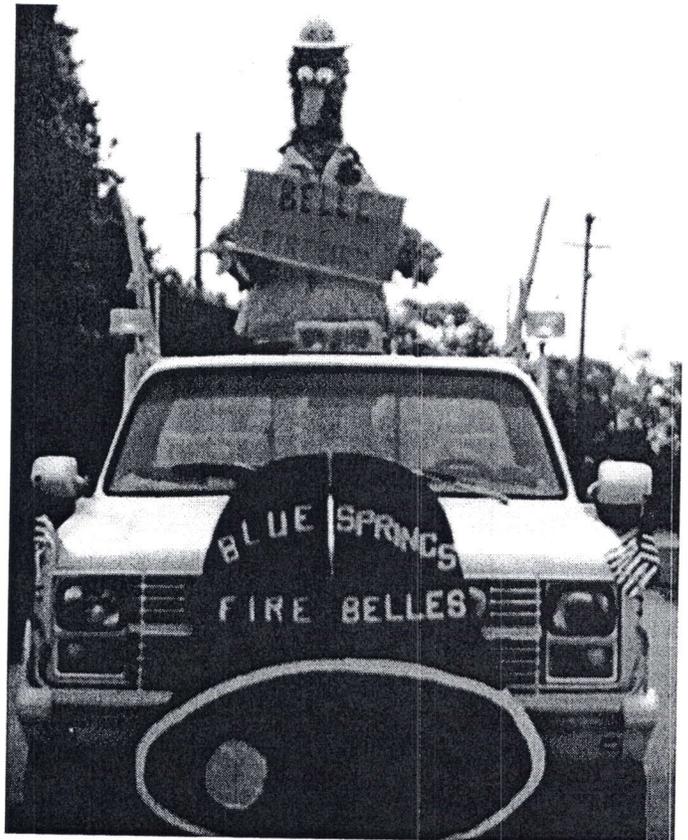
*Fire Belles that helped with trash pickup on Highway 77 – (front from left) Brandon Robinson, Chantal Leach, Jessica Elkins and Brent Robinson. (back) Angela Hereth, Anna Izer, Linda Hohensee, Dona Bartels, Teresa Robinson, Angie Naumann and Samantha Leach.*



*Fire Belles planted a tree in the Blue Springs Park. (from left) Beulah Scheele, Linda Hohensee, Carol Allen and Ruby Morris.*



*Fire Belles Float – Can Can dancers were Connie Carpenter, Linda Allen, Bev Graham and Lucille Morris.*



*“Belle” was in the Sam Wymore Days Parade, sponsored by the Fire Belles.*



*Fire Belles working on their float for the Blue Springs Parade in 1971. (from left) Carol Allen, Connie Carpenter, Donna Thoman, Dee Allen, Ruby Morris, Linda Allen, Cecelia Seachord and Shirley Bartels.*



*Fire Belles Halloween Party in 1957.*



*Fire Belles first bowling team in 1972. (from left) Carol Allen, Mary Lee Schiermeyer, Connie Carpenter, Dee Allen and Donna Thoman.*



*Bowling Team – Fire Belles (from left) Connie Carpenter, Linda Allen, RosaLee Reedy, Dee Allen and Carol Allen. Sponsored by Morris Used Cars.*

### **Blue Springs History in 1861**

Robert A. Wilson came from Iowa with his bride. He drove the long distance with three yoke of oxen. Their first home was a log cabin on the north side of Spring Branch. Mr. Wilson had been here before this, in 1857, and had been commissioned by the government to build and operate a saw and grist mill on the Indian Reservation. During this time and until 1860, he was also the Indian Agent.

Mr. Wilson met Dr. Levi Anthony, who had an established practice in Peru, and offered him 40 acres of land if he would come to Blue Springs and practice medicine. Dr. Anthony accepted and remained here until 1869. He traveled on horseback with his medicines in the saddlebags. Dr. Anthony was the first doctor to locate in Blue Springs.

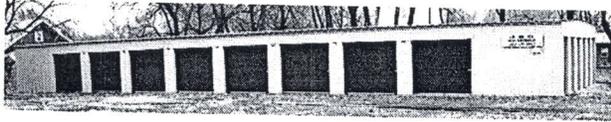


*Halloween party for the Fire Belles.*

**Blue Springs**

**Churches**

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*Gerri Vanderfeltz – Owner*

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*Blue Springs United Methodist Church*

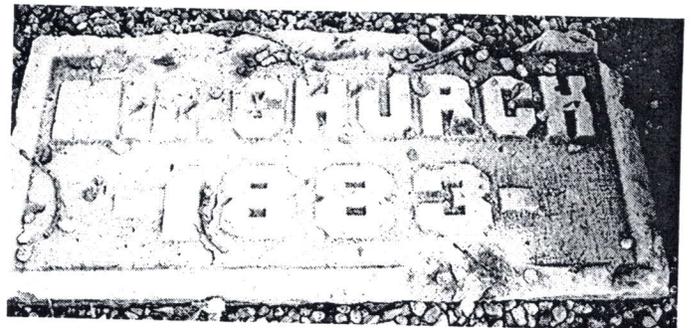
## **The Blue Springs United Methodist Church**

The Blue Springs United Methodist Church meets another mile stone in 2007 in the church history.

We find ourselves 130 years old and looking to the future with great anticipation. Our Sunday School attendance continues to grow with students and some new faces of adults teaching. The Worship attendance on Sunday morning holds steady but room for many more.

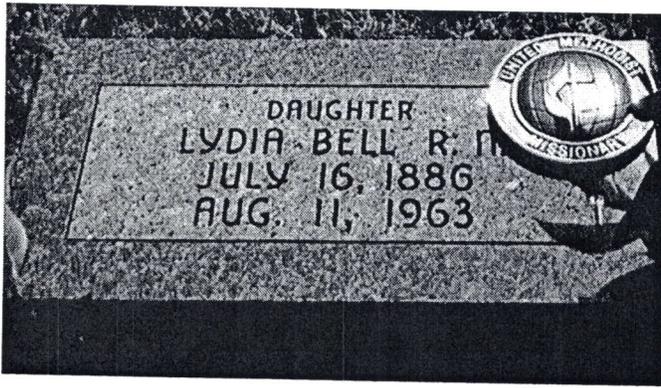
A flat rock was found by Walter and Audrey Trauernicht and given to the church, it was placed in front of the bulletin board outside, it is dated 1883.

We share in joint worship services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve with other



*A flat rock was found by Walter and Audrey Trauernicht and given to the church, it was placed in front of the bulletin board outside.*

congregations, the Wymore United Methodist, Our Savior's Lutheran, Presbyterian of Wymore and Mission Creek, of rural Liberty, and St. Peter's Lutheran of Wymore. As of now the church is in transition awaiting a replacement for Rev. Sykes who is missed by all.



*A memorial medallion was placed on the grave of Lydia Rice, who was the first missionary for the church. She was a registered nurse at the Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky.*

The 125th Anniversary of the Church was held Sunday, July 7, 2002. The Feast of Harvest was the theme. An order for Installation of a Gravemarker in memory of Lydia Rice was held at the Blue Springs Cemetery. Rev. Scott Woodward of Red-bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky was guest speaker.

The church had a re-enactment of the first Circuit Rider Preacher where the first dug out services were held.

Simple Grace, a singing musical family performed the evening service, known as the Jim Hitch Family, and last but not least good food was enjoyed by all.

Pastors since 1963 were:

1963-1964 - M.G. Vance

1964-1967 - Lynn W. Humston

1967-1968 -- Russell Stahley

1969-1976 - Richard M. Carpenter

1976-1978 - John F. Dale

1978-1985 - Eugene E. Watson

1985 - 1989 - Milan S. Coleman

1989-1992 - Arnold Kramer

1992-1993 - Richard V. Odgers

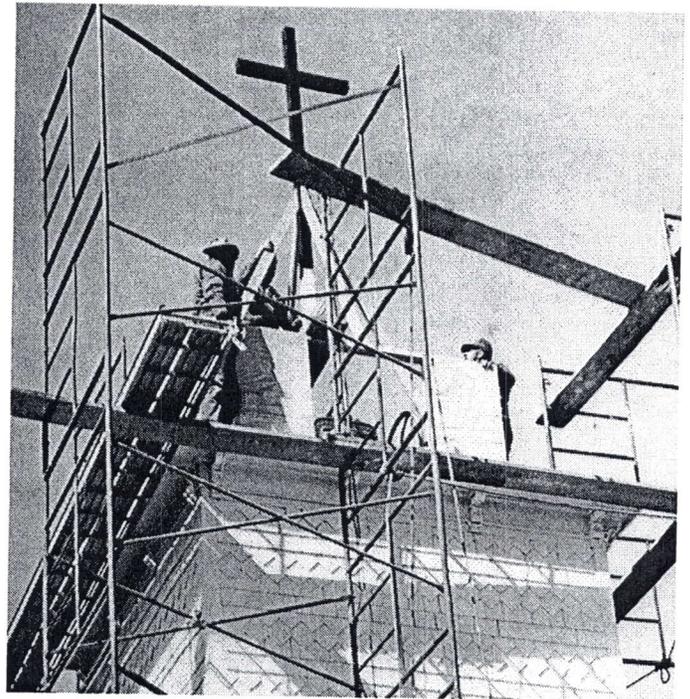
1993-1996 - J.B. Choate

1996-1998 - Nita Hays (Hinds-Parks)

1998 - 2005 - Judith Dye

2005 to 7/1/2007 - Richard Sykes

The Blue Springs United Methodist Church seeks to provide worship, religious education and also, seeks to serve the spiritual, social and physical needs of the community, at home and in the world, in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



*Work on the steeple at the Blue Springs United Methodist Church*

### ***Blue Springs United Methodist Sunday School***

The Blue Springs United Methodist Sunday School strives to provide a Christian education and Christian atmosphere to children ages 3 years through 8th grade for children from the Wymore United Methodist, Blue Springs United Methodist Church, the Wymore Presbyterian Church and the surrounding area. Attendance is 30 children with 10 teachers and helpers. Sunday School is held September through May followed with Vacation Bible School during the summer for a few days. Each year third graders receive their own Bible.

Sunday School gives to several mission projects each year, including making blankets given to Red Bird Mission, sending items in a Christmas Shoe Box for a boy and a girl, collecting food items for local food pantry, and collecting for CROP walk.

Our activities each year include hosting a Valentine Supper and Party for church families, presenting a Christmas Program, sleep over and breakfast held at the church, attending the Halloween activities provided by the youth fellowship, providing a soup supper for all families when the church is decorated for Christmas, presenting a Vacation Bible School program, and singing at church services as announced.

Our teachers and helpers, Connie Carpenter,



*Blue Springs Bazaar*

Sally Beekman, Jolene Schmidt, Jodi Wegner, Barb Beekman, Tina Taylor, Andrea Humphreys, Julie Zarybnicky, Kim Jackson, and Ruby Hardin invite you to come and join us at Sunday School.

**Blue Springs United Methodist Church  
Lay Leadership - 2007**

**Administrative Board**

Chairperson	Louise Leitschuck
Vice-Chairperson	Pastor
Treasurer	Elayne Sullivan
Secretary	Marilyn Schmidt
Financial Secretary	Roland Hardin
Chairperson of Finance	Rush Beekman
Trustee Chairperson	Roland Hardin
Parish Lay Leader	Connie Carpenter
Lay Member/Annual Conf.	Ruby Hardin
Membership Secretary	Lisa Vanschoiack
*Members at Large	All Members of Church

**Program - Mission, Nurture, Outreach, Witness**

Hunger Concern	Larry McPhail
Food Pantry Representative	Ruby Hardin
Sunday School Superintendent	Sally Beekman
Worship Pastor and	Ruby Hardin
Communion Steward	Carol Allen
Youth Leaders	Cherri Trump, Nikki Shalla
Ushers, Greeters, & Acolytes	Berneice & Shorty Ames
Auditor	Bob Allen

Shut-ins & inactive visitation-Pastor & Members of Ch.	Sally Beekman
Camping Ministry	Carol Allen
Communication & History	Carol Allen

**Trustees**

Chairperson	Roland Hardin
Class of 2007	Roland Hardin, Brent Beekman, Elayne Sullivan
Class of 2008	Toby Vanschoick, Connie Carpenter, John Moore
Class of 2009	Gary Trump, Raymond Eisenhower, Dale Carpenter

**Committee on Lay Leadership**

Chairperson	Pastor
Lay Leader	Connie Carpenter
Class of 2007	Nikki Shalla
Class of 2008	Norman Ossowski
Class of 2009	Sandy Wasserman

**Memorial Committee**

Marilyn Schmidt and Janet Roberts

**Pastor/Parish**

Chairperson	Marian Spicer
Class of 2007	Marian Spicer
Class of 2008	Elayne Sullivan
Class of 2009	Larry McPhail, Norman Ossowski
Non Voting Members	
Parish Lay Leader	Connie Carpenter
Lay Member of Annual Conf.	Ruby Hardin

## Willing Helpers

In January 1997, women of the church who worked during the day wanted to become more involved in the work of the church. They decided to meet at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the church. From this first meeting, the Willing Helpers were organized. Women from the community and other churches have joined this wonderful evening of faith and fellowship.

With members from the Willing Workers also in the group, we learned to prepare special services at church, the work of mission projects, and community involvement.

The Helpers are very active today; helping make baked goods and crafts for the annual bazaar, helping serve lunches at public sales and fellowship coffees, helping Sunday School and Vacation Bible School with supplies, helping with meals for the U.Y.F. meetings, and helping meet budget needs of the church. Special cheer baskets are made and delivered to the hospitals and homebound of the community. They have participated in Clean City, picking up trash on county roads.

The Willing Helpers continue to help the church, to serve others in our communities, and grow in faith.

Officers are: President and Secretary - Connie Carpenter; Vice-President - Sally Beekman and Treasurer & Hist. - Carol Allen.

## The Willing Workers

The Willing Workers are still very active in the community. The Bazaar continues to grow each year. The Willing Workers have 16 members on the roll and many friends and members of the United Methodist Church help to make it a success each year.

Courtesy meals are served for families who have lost a loved one.

A Memorial Day dinner is held for folks visiting and attending Memorial Day services at the local cemeteries. The proceeds go to the Blue Springs Cemetery Association.

Community coffees' are hosted usually twice a year. Birthday refreshments are prepared for the Good Samaritan Center in September. Sandwiches are furnished for the Blood Mobile in Wymore twice a year.

The Workers have Appreciation Day for the Sunday School Teachers and the Pastor.

A Christmas party is held in December as a thank you to all who helped with the Bazaar and also a time to celebrate the event. A noon meal, gift exchange and entertainment is enjoyed.

The current 2007 officers are:

Chairman - Marian Spicer

Co-Chairman - Cheryel Moore



*Taken in front of the Ebenezer Evangelical United Brethren Church (now the Blue Springs United Methodist Church). This picture was from a post card. There were 60 men standing by the church, approximately in the 1920s.*

Secretary - Berneice Ames

Treasurer - Ruby Hardin

The last Sunday in January the church host a chicken and noodle supper with the offering going to help with various organizations in our community. Contributions have been given to the Blue Springs Park play ground equipment, Blue Springs Ball Diamond Association, the Wymore Library, Mentor Program and others needs.

The Wymore Food Pantry is also one of our mission giving includes the Wymore Food Pantry and Red Bird Mission of Kentucky. Our hearts are very close to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, former member, Lydia Rice, was the first medical person on staff to serve there. She rode her mule to take care of the sick in the Kentucky mountains.

The Willing Workers continue to look forward to the future and ways we can serve the Church as well as the community.

### **United Youth Fellowship**

The United Youth Fellowship is an exuberant group of 7th through 12th grade children from the Blue Springs and Wymore Methodist Churches, the

United Presbyterian Church, Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Wymore and the community. They love to get together for FUN, FOOD, and FAITH! Having several churches represented gives the group a wonderful combination of talent and knowledge. The meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings at the Wymore United Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m. They come together for worship and to plan service projects for the community.

Projects of the youth group have been planning and presenting the community Easter sunrise service; providing cards for the residents at the Good Samaritan Center; and having a "door-to-door scavenger hunt" for canned goods to help supply the local food pantry.

Fund-raisers are held throughout the year to help to buy Christmas gifts for families in need. A haunted hayrack at Halloween, a baked potato dinner, and yard work are just a few of the fund-raisers.

Sharing their faith and time with others in the community is important to these children. They are the future of our churches in the community.

Sponsors are: Cherri Trump and Nikki Shalla.



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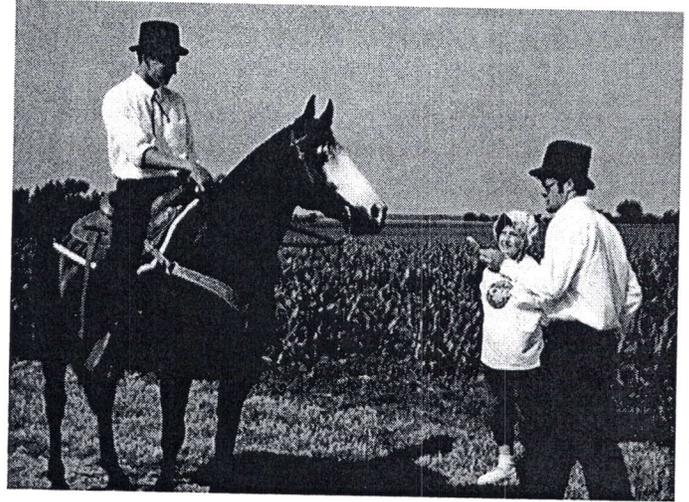
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- We provide contributions for youth development, education and the arts.
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- Our economic development programs help Nebraska grow and prosper.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and pledge to continue partnering with Nebraska for generations to come.



*Sister Ruby Hardin played the organ in a corn field at the site of the original church during the 125th Celebration.*

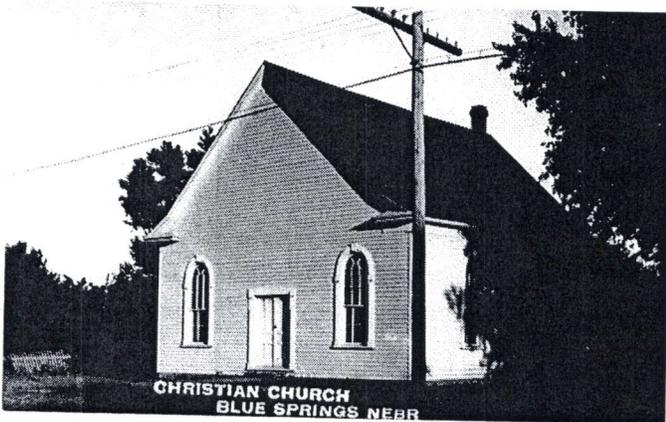


*Travis Hardin (on the horse) representing the circuit rider and Ryan Trump (preacher) along with Sister Ruby Hardin at the site of the first church.*

## **Blue Springs Churches In The Past United Brethren Church**

Much of the early church work for the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, in Nebraska, was promoted by circuit riders who visited the pioneer homes and families.

A neat and commodious church building was built in Blue Springs, just north of the present public Park site, during the Conference year of 1881-1882, at an approximate cost of \$1,500.00. The small debt on the building was lifted by 1884.



### **The Christian Church**

The history of the Christian Church dates back to September 20, 1891, when a group of devout Christians met to form a Covenant.

Mr. Jacob Heddings left \$12,000.00 to the church, which paid off the building debt and the church was dedicated.

In 1953-54 a basement was constructed and

two class rooms and an entrance hall were built on the front of the church. Money and much of the labor was donated by members of the congregation.

### **The Methodist Church**

The beginning of the Methodist church dates back to 1857, when the Rev. J.H. Johnson and his family came from Iowa and settled on Sec. 9 of Blue Springs Township.

### **The Presbyterian Church**

There were a number of people of Presbyterian faith attending the old stone church, and as it had outgrown its facilities, the First Presbyterian Church was organized on Dec. 3, 1879 by a Synodical missionary, Rev. George L. Little and assisted by Rev. H.F. White of Beatrice. The first church was built on the present church site the following year.

### **Ebenezer Evangelical United Brethren Church**

The earliest church of the Evangelical Association (later known as the Evangelical United Brethren Church) at Blue Springs, began in 1870-1871, when the work was directed by the Kansas Conference.

The early Evangelical classes in the Blue Springs community were organized around the Sandritters who came from Ohio.