

BLUE SPRINGS

1857 – 2007



SESQUICENTENNIAL

150 YEARS



The City of Blue Springs dedicates this book to those who forged into the unknown one hundred and fifty years ago to begin this community. Great strength, skill and stamina was required.

Thank you to the men who built the roads, cut the trees, and lived a rough life of self-denial as farmers, livestock raisers, in carpentry, blacksmithing and community leadership. Each had his own special talent and ability to contribute to a wonderful new opportunity of free enterprise.

A salute to the women of the early days who weaved cloth, sewed, baked, cooked and cleaned the hard way, and who, with the men, nurtured children who had to go beyond schooling to do a wide range of chores.

A vote of thanks to the teachers who motivated and instilled desire for knowledge and broadened horizons.

Praise to all those who stepped forward then, and step forward now to offer individual abilities, promote civic pride and community growth, and who develop special activities conducive to healthy morale – like musical groups, glee clubs, youth clubs and athletic teams.

Special recognition is given to area churches that encourage good will among all people and teach ways to achieve and maintain it.

Though not individually noted here so as to avoid any slight of acknowledgment, a **very special thank you** is given to all those who volunteered their time and special skills toward the completion of this volume and in the planning and execution of celebratory events, and so to Sesquicentennial success.

Lonnie Meyer – Mayor of Blue Springs



***CELEBRATION COMMITTEE** – (front from left) Larry Foreman, Gary Neumann, Toby Rakes and James Cary. (second row) Carol Allen, Ruby Hardin, Lori Novotny. (back) Gary Ames, Fred Colgrove, Marv Norman, Jan Morris, Dean Scheideler. (not pictured) Tom Wolf, Roland Hardin, Fred Naumann, Milton Pike, Steve and Hazel Percival, Brad Robinson, Connie Smith, Renee Molacek, Gary Trump, Bob Allen. Also thanks to Blue Springs Fire Belles, Blue Springs Volunteer Fire Department, Blue Springs United Methodist Church, Willing Workers and Willing Helpers, City of Blue Springs, Southern Gage Community Pride Group, Dale Crawford and the Wymore Arbor State.*

Happy 150th Birthday Blue Springs

Through the years there have been many changes in Blue Springs. People may remember when the town was booming with businesses. Others just know how it stands today. Throughout this book you will read some of the past history from years ago when Blue Springs was a thriving community. It was published to show readers a glimpse of the history of our community and what it is today.

A special **THANKS** goes out to the celebration committee and the history book committee for making this 150th Birthday of Blue Springs enjoyable for all. The history book committee would like to thank all those who contributed time and talent, pictures and information to this publication. We regret any information having been omitted, due to budget limitations and difficulty in finding and remembering facts over the years. We did do our best to include as much as possible.

We hope you enjoy reading and reminiscing along with us!

THANKS TO:

HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE

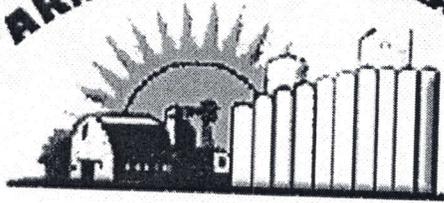
**Carol Allen
Bob Allen
Lori Novotny
Dale Crawford
The Wymore Arbor State**

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

**Tom Wolf – Chairman
Dean Scheideler - Chairman
Carol Allen
Gary Ames
James Cary
Fred Colgrove
Larry Foreman
Ruby & Roland Hardin
Fred Naumann
Gary Neumann
Marv Norman
Lori Novotny
Steve & Hazel Percival
Milton Pike
Toby Rakes
Brad Robinson**

**Connie Smith
Jan Morris
Renee Molacek
Gary Trump
Blue Springs Fire Belles
Blue Springs Vol. Fire Dept.
Blue Springs United
Methodist Church
Willing Workers & Helpers
City of Blue Springs
The Southern Gage Community
Pride Group**

FARMERS COOPERATIVE

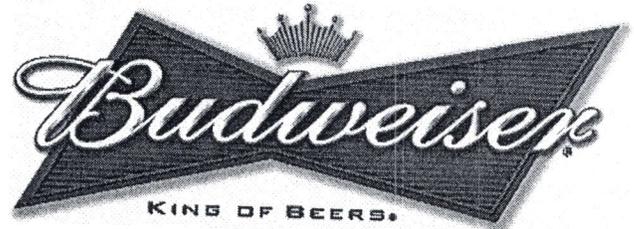


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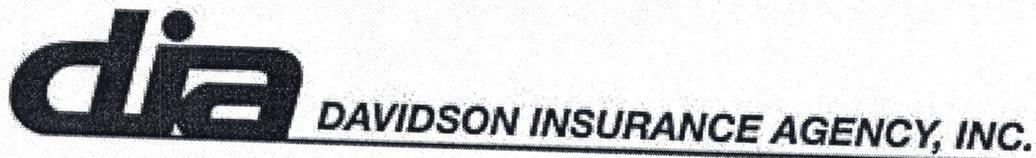
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City

Government

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On Your
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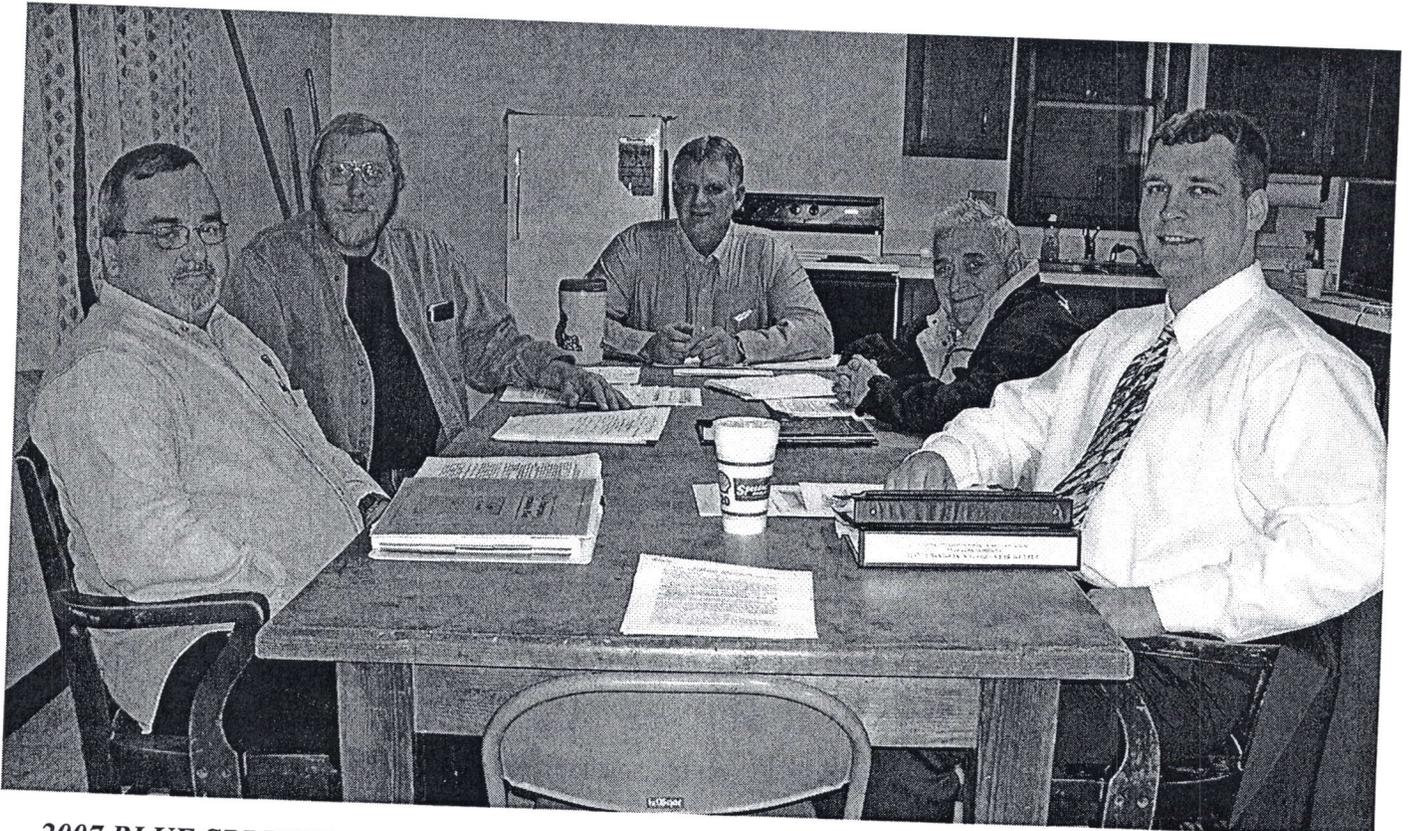
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2007 BLUE SPRINGS MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ... (from left) Tom Wolf, Fred Laber, Mayor Lonnie Meyer, Willard Scheele, Dean Scheideler. (not pictured) Katherine Roche, city clerk; Mike Willet, City Attorney; Andrew Carothers, Deputy City Attorney.

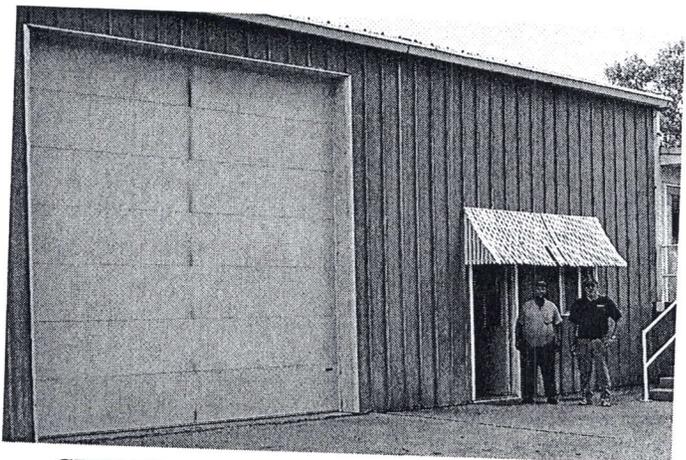
City of Blue Springs 1957-2007 Mayors

- Leonard Ekwall1957-1958
- Gene Bolender1959-1960
- Joe Schiermeyer.....1960-1962
- John Koch.....1962-1966
- Glen Witzenberg.....1966-1967
- Harry Siebels1967-----
- Phil Brandt1968-1970
- Russell Wilson.....1970-1978
- Eugene Swanson1978-1987
- Ray Allen1987-1988
- Rex Adams.....1988-1995
- Lynn Morris.....1995-2003
- Lonnie Meyer.....2003- Present

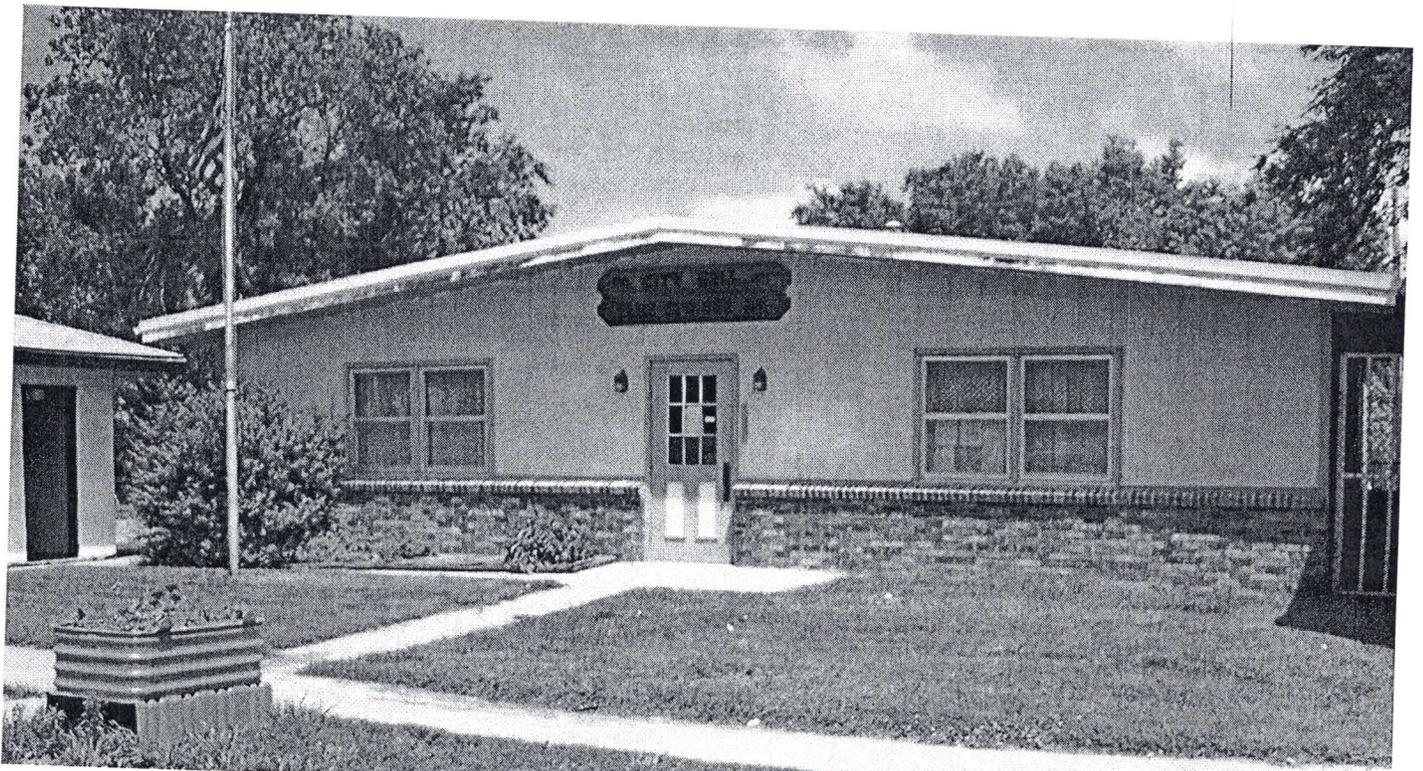
Street Improvement Information

Two Community Development Block Grants for Street Improvements (CDBG - 2001- \$250,000 & 2004 - \$250,000 - with stipulation of matching City funds) facilitated the 2001 and 2004 Blue Springs Street Improvements Plans, resulting in paving the majority of City streets, the following remaining for new paving or repair (Walnut Street) considerations, possibly through future application for CDBG funds.

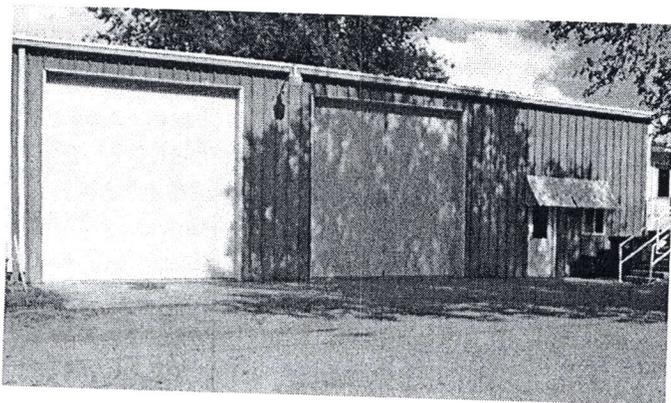
They are: (On Walnut, from 1st Street south to corporate limits) and the Six-Year Plan (On Jefferson Street, from Lincoln Street to Irving Street; Washington Street, from Broad Street to Lincoln Street; Washington Street, from Lincoln Street to Irving Street; Hazen Street, from Broad Street to Main Street; Main Street, from Hazen Street to Douglas Street; South Street, from "A" Street to Hazen Street).



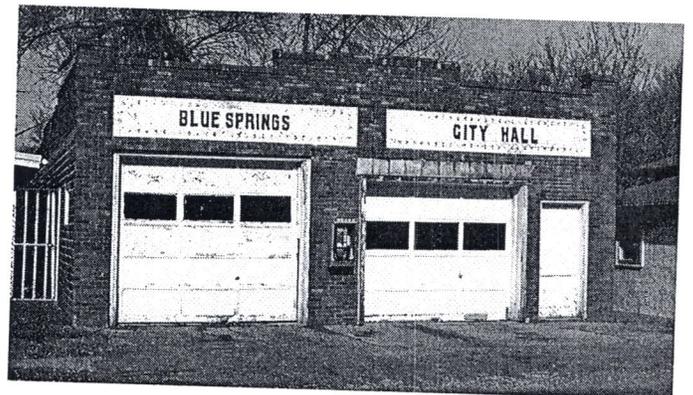
CITY EMPLOYEES ... Eldon Izer and Mike Pike.



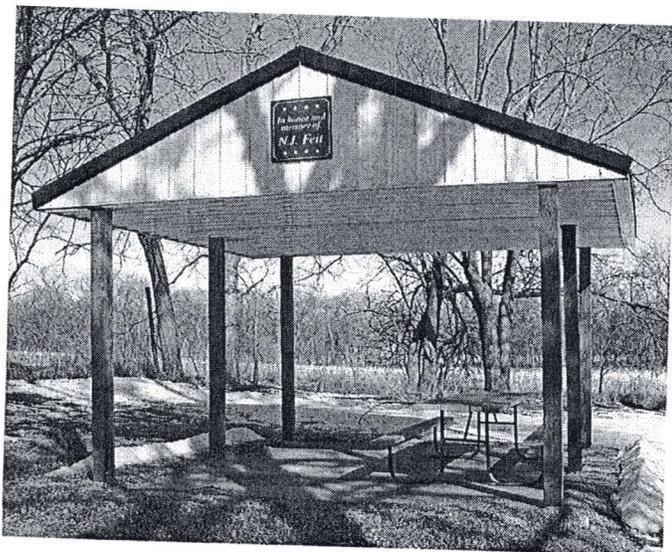
BLUE SPRINGS CITY HALL



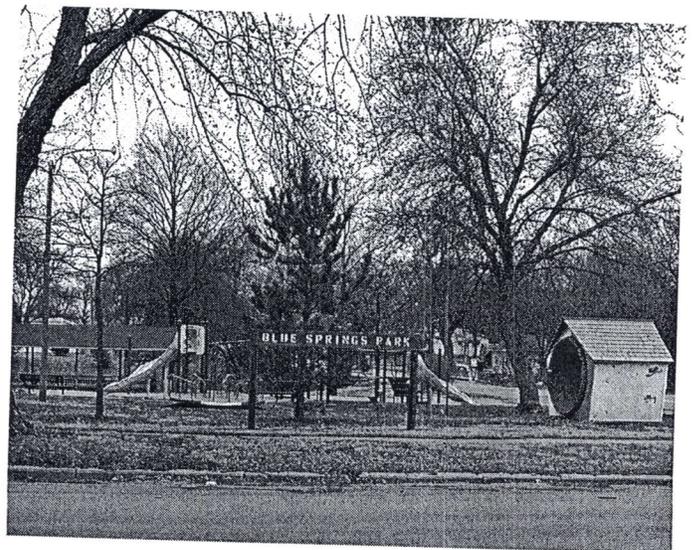
MAINTENANCE BUILDING



FORMER CITY HALL



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Blue Springs Fire Department
Blue Springs Keno Lounge
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Farmers Cooperative – Blue Springs
First National Bank – Blue Springs Branch
Gage County Sheriff – Gustafson, and Staff
Galaxy Cablevision
Gilmore & Associates – Engineers
Great Plains One-Call
Ed Hajek Construction
J.B. Tire Service
Johnny's Welding
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Willet & Carothers
Windstream
Wymore Arbor State
Wymore, City of
Wymore Lumber
Wymore Oil Company
Wymore Super Foods



BLUE SPRINGS CEMETERY BOARD ... (front from left) Ruby Morris, Recording Secretary; Elayne Sullivan; Elinor Petersen, Treasurer. (back) Tom Fulton; Kent Martin; Delbert Bartels; Robert Allen, Secretary – Sexton; Roland Hardin, President. (not pictured) Carol Allen.

The Blue Springs Cemetery

The Blue Springs Cemetery was founded in 1860 and has the distinction of being "NEBRASKA'S OLDEST RECORDED CEMETERY" recorded as of record January 25, 1862. The first burial was Allen R. Johnson age eight years and two months who died September 26, 1857. He had drowned in the Big Blue River near a log cabin close to the River Side Farm. Re-burial was when the cemetery was established. The grave is marked with a monument stating First Burial in Cemetery in the area identified as Original Addition.

The Blue Springs Cemetery Association has devoted much time and effort to maintain the beauty and upkeep of the cemetery. The Board of Officers and Trustees for the Blue Springs Cemetery Association consists of nine members. The members of the board are Roland Hardin, President; Delbert Bartels, Vice-President; Ruby Morris, Recording Secretary; Elinor Petersen, Treasurer; Robert Allen, Secretary-Sexton; Carol Allen, Elayne Sullivan, Kent Martin and Tom Fulton.

Raymond Eisenhauer, Secretary-Sexton, retired

August 2006 with 45 years of service. Forrest "Bud" Roberts, was Vice-President, passed away on September 2, 2005. They both were dedicated to serving the cemetery and devoted many hours.

In 1996 through estates and donations we reconditioned some of the original fence and installed a new powder coated fence and gates. As funds become available more of the old fence will be reconditioned and installed.

The cemetery was vandalized in 1996 and 2005. In June of 1997 a tornado damaged the cemetery buildings, trees, fence, monuments and the chapel. The cemetery was restored through donations and the work of the cemetery board, the Volunteer Fire Departments, volunteers from the community, surrounding areas, and other organizations. The Willing Workers of the Blue Springs United Methodist Church provided refreshments and lunch. Everyone's assistance was much appreciated.

Many improvements and additions to the cemetery have been made through the years. Some of the improvements were: chapel repair, fence and gates,



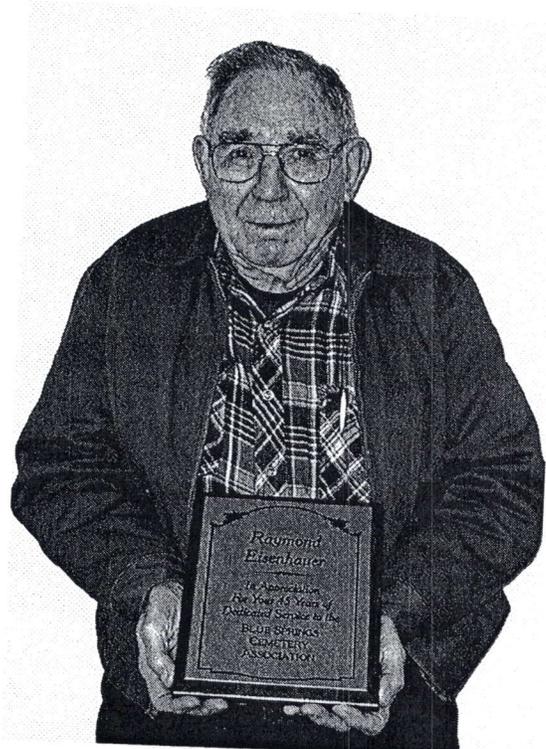
MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AT THE BLUE SPRINGS CEMETERY IN MAY 2007. Color guard includes Arnold Schmidt, Ron Hohensee, Wilbur Henderson, Chuck Smith, Rod Goes (acting Chaplin and Commander), Chuck Shores (Sargent-At-Arms), Ed McClure, Gary Vasey, Don Jurgens, Don Jenkins, Dallas Tennant, Jr. James, Gene Cripe, Gary Sohl, Marlin Weiner, Bruce Craig, Ken Wellensiek, Daryl Mailahn, Leonard Wilhem, Raymond Eisenhauer, and Gene Rickers (Post Bugler).

planting of trees, street improvements, and three glass enclosed bulletin boards presented through memorials with complete directory of lot owners and burials. Installation and listing was completed by the members of the cemetery board.

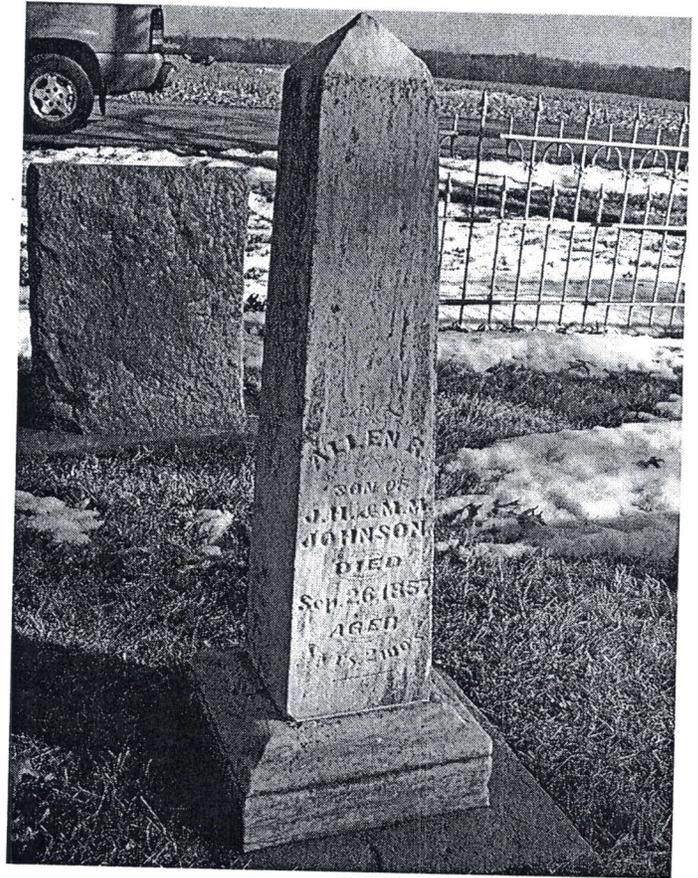
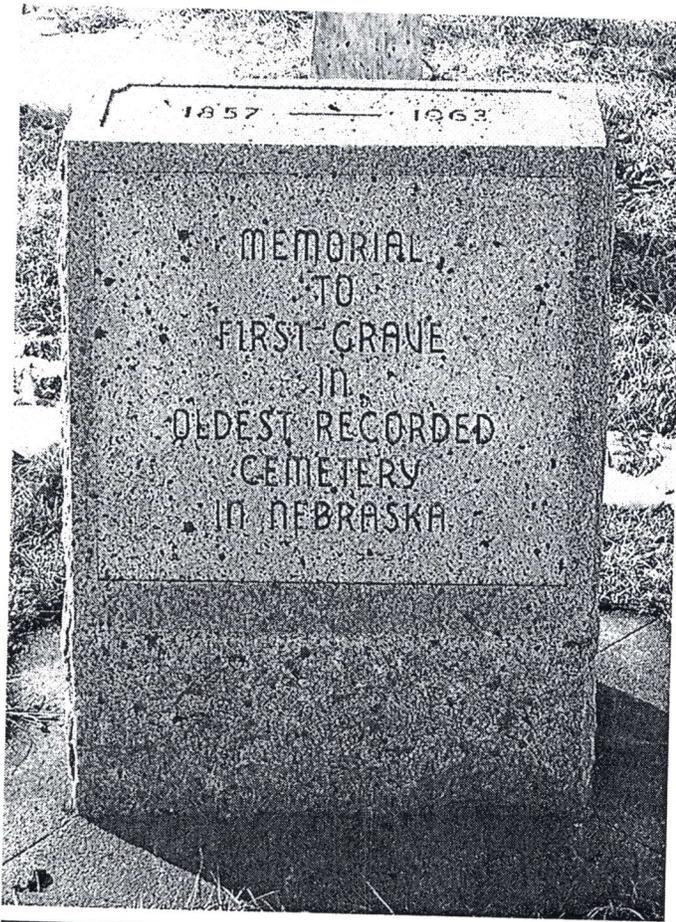
We are proud of our cemetery. Each year the Blue Springs Volunteer Fire Department personnel display the large Memorial Flags and the Cemetery Board of Trustees plan the program and place small flags on Veterans graves.

The Legion chaplain places a wreath at the war memorial and gun salute is given followed by taps. Each Memorial Day members of Wymore American Legion Anderson Post #25 remember our veterans by marching through an "Avenue of Flags". A Memorial Day luncheon is provided by the Blue Springs United Methodist Church with a free-will offering. The proceeds are given to the cemetery for improvements.

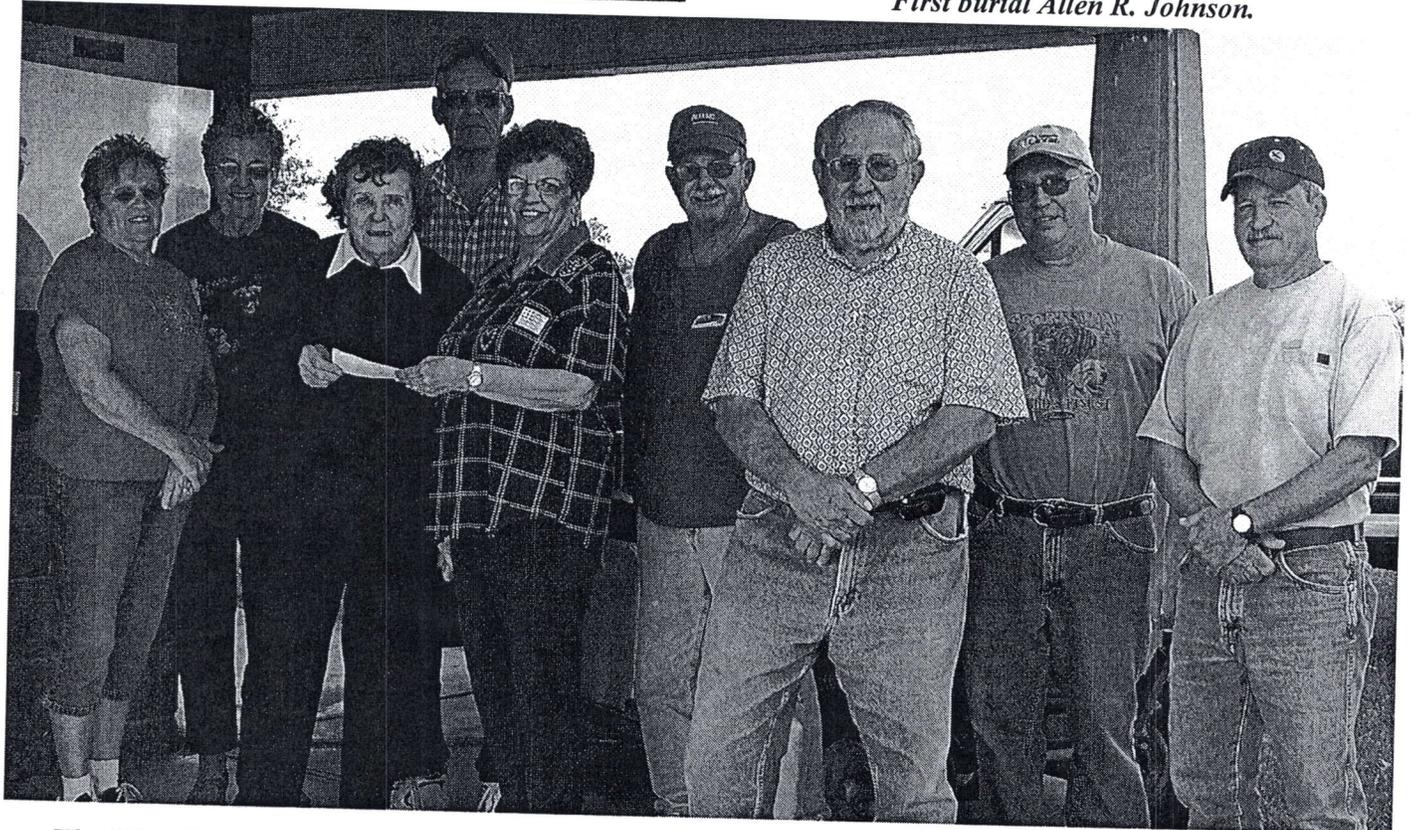
The Board continues to work on improvements to maintain the beauty of this historic cemetery.



Raymond Eisenhauer receives plaque for 45 years of service to the Blue Springs Cemetery Association.



First burial Allen R. Johnson.



The Blue Springs United Methodist Church gave the Blue Springs Cemetery Association \$1,000 from the proceeds of the Memorial Day luncheon held at the church. Elinor Petersen accepts the check from Marian Spicer, chairman of the Willing Workers. (from left) Carol Allen, Ruby Morris, Elinor Petersen, Roland Hardin, Marian Spicer, Bob Allen, Delbert Bartels, Tom Fulton and Kent Martin. (not pictured) Elayne Sullivan.