

# Pioneers in the Age of Aging



Pioneers are individuals in search of a better way of life and willing to forge ahead



U. S. events which solidified the forming and foundation of grass root organizations on aging issues.

- **1961 White House Conference on Aging**



# Key event

- Congress passed The Older American's Act on July 14, 1965.



**Johnson said at the signing of “ The Older American’s Act.**

**Under the program every state and every community can now move toward a coordinated program of sources and opportunities for our older citizens. It will permit us to travel new ways where old ways have not worked before. It will permit new beginnings where none have been made before.**

# Ford Foundation Grant



Purpose of the  
Grant:

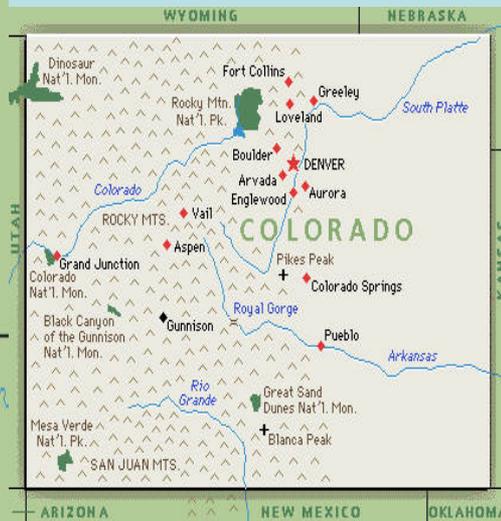
To develop a  
grass roots  
organization to  
assist in  
establishing new  
social roles for  
the elderly.

# Five States were selected to receive the Ford Grant in 1960

## California



## Colorado



## Missouri



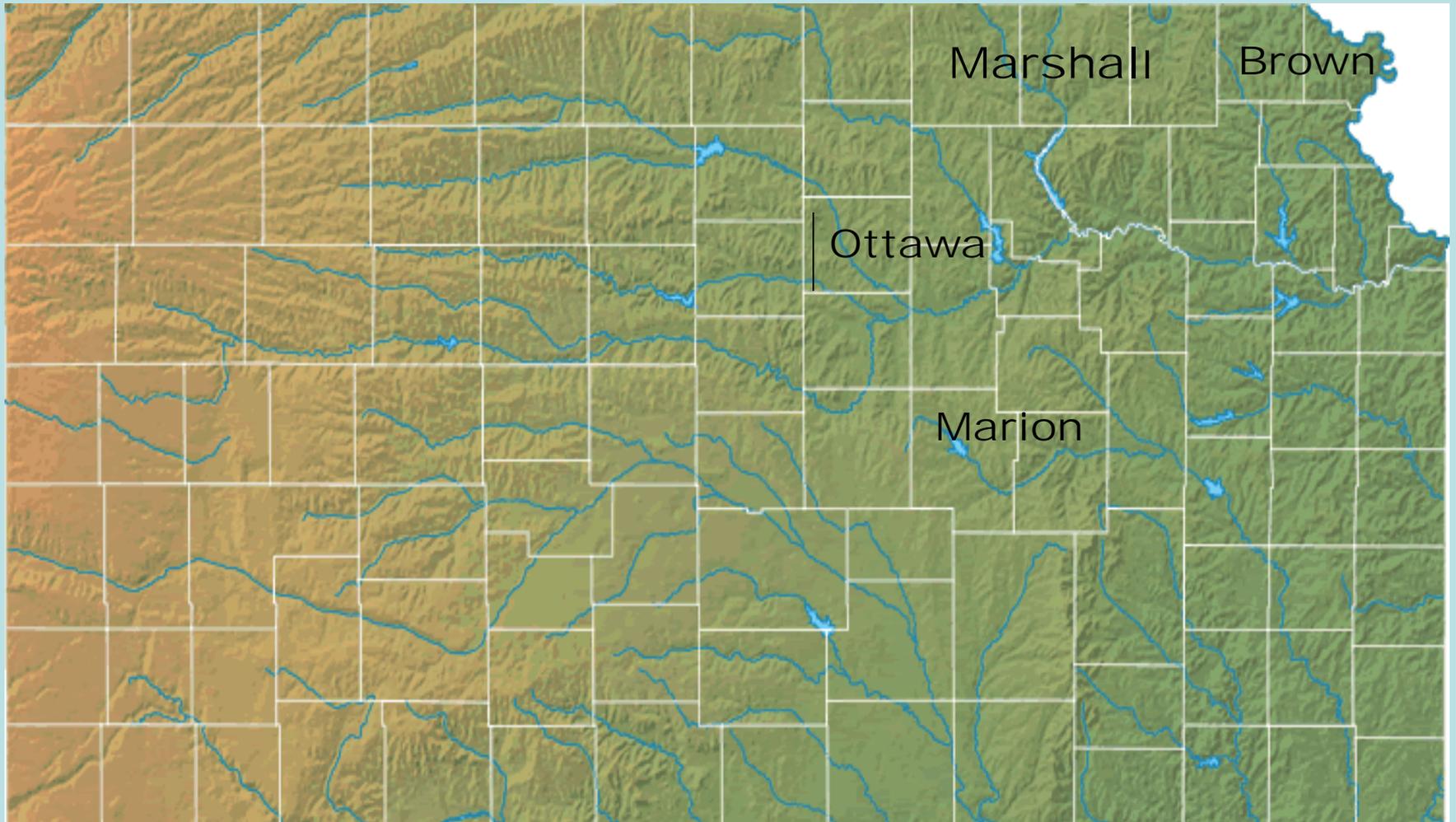
## Minnesota



# Kansas was the fifth state selected



Four Counties in Kansas were under consideration to receive the Ford Grant.



Marion County was chosen because it met the criteria and most important they were the only county, who was a trained Social Worker: **Mrs. Elizabeth Reznicek 1960-1961**

# Three Commissioners

George Jost    Ed Nicklaus    George Merilatt



Miss Ollie Randall, Ford Foundation Consultant  
made the official presentation of the Ford  
Foundation award on Sept 6, 1960 at the Wagon  
In Café , Hillsboro



Mrs. Selma Maybell Steele provided leadership in forming the voluntary county organization for senior citizens

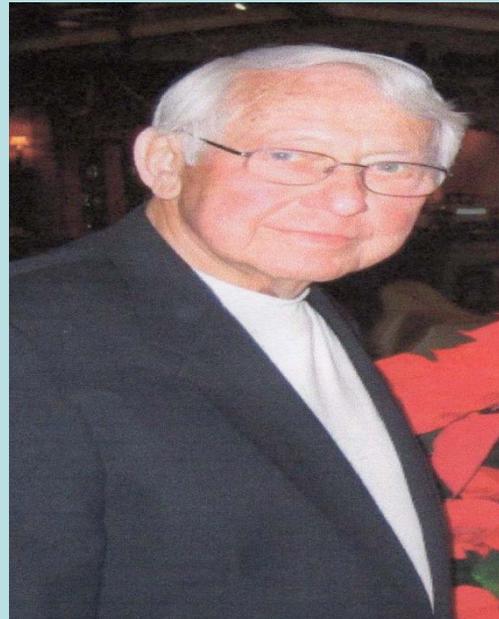


**Mrs. Selma Maybell Steele sharing her memories at the Senior Citizens of Marion County 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

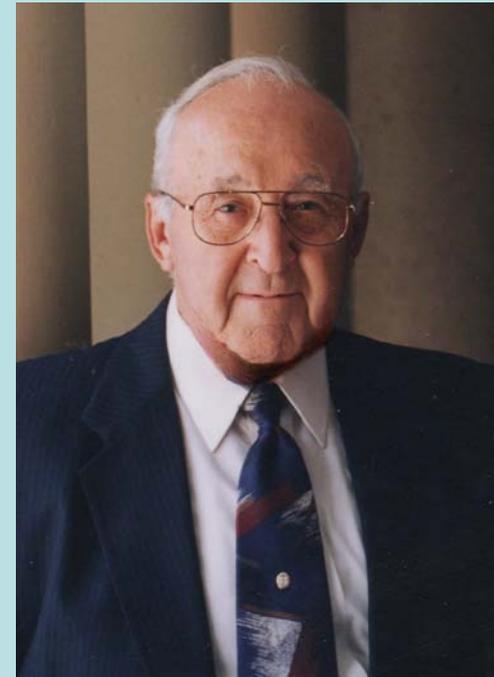
# 1960 Golden Years Committee



- **Dorothy DuVall**
- **First President (1960)**



**Wesley Loewen**  
**First Vice President**



**Dorman Becker**  
**Sec/Treasurer**

# Second Project Director

- **Esther Twente served 1961-1963**



- Quote from her book, *Never to Old*” about her experiences in Marion County.

**“These group meetings have caught fire because they are the only means we old people have of getting together, especially with members of other churches.” said a gentleman, who was a member of the Golden Years Inc.**

Six Community Senior Citizens clubs were formed during 1961-1962 with the grant money.



# Golden Years Inc. Newsletters through the years.

THE GOLDEN YEARS, INC. OF MARION COUNTY

## NEWSLETTER

February 1964

### WHAT IS IT

Golden Years, Inc. of Marion County is an organization of citizens to enrich the lives of the aged in the county. Membership is for the calendar year and costs 25¢ per year.

The organization is governed by a board of twelve directors representing the different communities of Marion County. The current officers are: Mr. Wesley Loosen, Hillsboro, President; Magr. Arthur Tonne, Pilsen, vice-president; Mrs. Tom Pierce, Peabody, corresponding secretary; and Durman Becker, Durham, financial secretary.

Directors are elected for a term of three years at the annual meeting held in the fall. The board meets quarterly to consider the affairs of the aged in the county. The executive committee, made up of the officers, meets monthly.

There are three standing committees of the organization: nominating, membership, and publicity. An advisory committee, composed of representatives from each community functions to relate the committee's needs directly to the larger county organization.

Board of directors of Golden Years, Inc. of Marion County include the following members:

- |                                   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Mr. Wesley Loosen, Hillsboro      | 1-1-65 |
| Mrs. Dorothy Dohy, Marion         | 1-1-65 |
| Mr. Durman Becker, Durham         | 1-1-65 |
| Mrs. Selma Maybill, Marion        | 1-1-65 |
| Mrs. Frank McMillan, Florence     | 1-1-65 |
| Mrs. Martha Shields, Lincolnville | 1-1-66 |
| Mr. Levi Suller, Hillsboro        | 1-1-66 |
| Mr. Ray Corriellan, Hillsboro     | 1-1-66 |
| Magr. Arthur Tonne, Pilsen        | 1-1-67 |
| Mr. Ferd Ulrich, Lehigh           | 1-1-67 |
| Mrs. Tom Pierce, Peabody          | 1-1-67 |
| Mr. Ed Micklaus, Peabody          | 1-1-67 |

The Golden Years, Inc. of Marion County "Newsletter" is another venture in service to the aged in Marion County. It is published to inform members of the corporation about the activities of the aged in the county.

It is planned that the newsletter will appear quarterly. Clubs or individuals having news of interest to the aged in the county should forward this to Vernon Wiebe, 401 South Wilson, Hillsboro, or Mrs. Mariella Smith, Division of Services for the Aged, State Department of Social Welfare, State Office Building, Topeka, Kansas, who are co-editors for 1964.

### ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Look at your address on this newsletter. If it doesn't have a % on it you will not receive the newsletter again unless you become a member of Golden Years, Inc. for 1964.

A quick look at our membership list for 1964 indicates that Golden Years, Inc. has 236 members. These people are supporting the aged in the county.

Join them by sending your 25¢ membership fee to Durman Becker, Durham, Kar Membership in Golden Years, Inc. no age limit. It is open to all institutions or individuals interested in the aging in Marion County.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is the purpose of the directors of Golden Years, Inc. County to serve as a coordinator for all programs and services to persons in the county. The assistance in the exploration available in the community extension of existing services to local communities to develop and programs when indicated.

The board will not be responsible for individuals, or personal.

As president of the committee, I hope that all communities will continue their past three years and their progress as well as their own.

## THE GOLDEN YEARS, INC. OF MARION COUNTY NEWSLETTER

### FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 1965

The first annual meeting of Golden Years, Inc. will be held on October 21, 1965, at the St. Mary's Activity Center, 415 North Centre, Marion, Kansas. Registration will be held from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon.

Lunch will be served promptly at 12:00 noon. St. Leonard Roman Catholic Church, Inc. will provide the program for the evening. The speaker for the evening will be Rev. Joseph J. O'Connell, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Marion, Kansas. He will talk on the social security amendments and answer questions provided by local senior citizens clubs in the county.

### SPECIAL NOTICE

There will be an antique show held in conjunction with the annual meeting of Golden Years, Inc. on October 21, 1965. This show is open to all older persons of Marion County.

If you have something to exhibit, please contact your local advisory committee member, the president of your local senior citizens club, or Mr. Leo Waterhouse of Marion. Mr. Waterhouse will act as chairman of the antique show.



The Golden Years float again this year was first prize at the Marion County Senior Citizens Day. The float was decorated with flowers and people. The float was pulled by the Marion County Senior Citizens Club. The float was a great success and we thank all those who assisted Mr. and Mrs. Shields in putting the float together.

This year as in past years, we were fortunate to have Mr. Rudolph Swick and his team of oxen pull the float. This was a great success and we thank Mr. Swick for his assistance.

## Senior News and Views

February 14, 2000  
Vol. 22 No. 1  
Phone: 983-3880

**Senior Citizens of Marion County, Inc. Dept. for Elderly**

"Hi! Pull up a chair and see what's going on among our Marion County Senior Citizens. Soon we'll publish our 20th Anniversary Newsletter. We'll publish with you these leading articles and news items. We'll publish the 1979 "Senior News and Views" in the Newsletter since Bertha's passing away on December 1989. We will always treasure our memories of her as an affirmation of the theme for National Volunteer Week. We are proud to have her as a symbol of making love and joy as is a timeless celebration of the spirit as a symbol of making love and joy.

**Volunteers Give From The Heart** - The theme for National Volunteer Week is "Give From The Heart". This is a time to recognize the invaluable contributions of our volunteers. We are proud to have them as a symbol of making love and joy.

**ITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program** - The ITA program is a service provided by the IRS to help low-income taxpayers prepare their income tax returns. The program is available to individuals with adjusted gross income of \$10,000 or less. The program is available to individuals with adjusted gross income of \$10,000 or less. Contact the Dept. for Elderly at 983-3880.

**Why Can't a Bicycle Stand up by Itself?** - Because it is two-tired.

**2010 Senior Fair** - The 2010 Senior Fair will be on Tuesday, August 18, 2010. The fair will be held at the Marion County Senior Center. The fair will feature a variety of activities, including a raffle, a silent auction, and a live performance. The fair will be a great opportunity for seniors to socialize and enjoy the day. Contact the Dept. for Elderly at 983-3880.



## Senior News & Views

Vol. 32, No. 2  
June 28, 2010

**Wellness For Life**

The Marion County Dept. on Aging held its first "Wellness For Life" with good reviews from all who attended. The event was held on Wednesday, May 26th at the Eastmoor Church. Attendees enjoyed a choice of presentations out of five topics on balancing, healthy eating, diabetes, and arthritis. The seminar presenters gave participants some useful information on maintaining or improving their health status. A comment from one attendee was "I would have liked so I could have attended more of the sessions." Another person wrote on the evaluation presented well. The participants also had the opportunity to observe or participate in the exercise demonstration. Anna Woods, Personal Wellness Demonstrator from Wood Words, presented how you could use common household items in an exercise program. Rich Hanley, leading the Tai Chi demonstration with participants.

**Words of Wisdom:** "It is never too late to have been."

George Elliot



- One goal of the Golden Years, Inc was to inform members of the organization about activities of the aged in the county.

# Esther Vogt wrote Senior News & Views from 1978-1999



Golden Years Inc. exhibited floats in county parades to make public aware that Senior Citizens were still industrious and try to make themselves useful



Float by Florence Senior Center in Labor Day Parade.

- The Golden Years Inc float won first prize for many years in Marion County Fair.

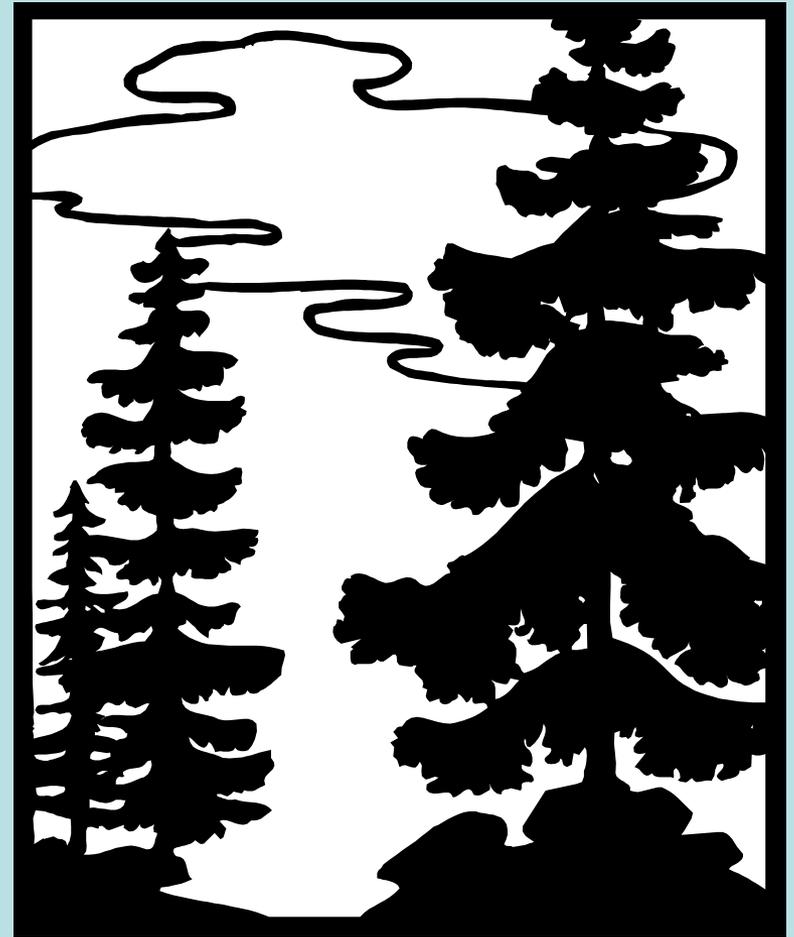
# Golden Years Slogan

- A.E. Janzen on Jan 17, 1968 introduced the slogan for 1968

**“Extend the Area of Goodwill”**

based on Matthew 7:12

“ In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”



# Hillsboro Golden Years Club first meeting on Feb. 22, 1961 in Hillsboro City Building

The first meeting  
Professor A. R. Ebel  
served as master of  
ceremonies. Some  
100 individuals attend  
this exploratory  
meeting.

**Hillsboro Meals and Activities for Golden Years club happened at the 107 N. Washington building plus the Hillsboro M.B. Church.**



**Harold Graber, manager of Betty's Restaurant, catered the Fellowship meals beginning Sept 10, 1975. Mrs. Eileen Baerg, Hillsboro site director and Mrs. Barbara Longhofer, project coordinator are present for the signing.**



Hillsboro Golden Years acquired this building in 1976 which housed a temporary bank

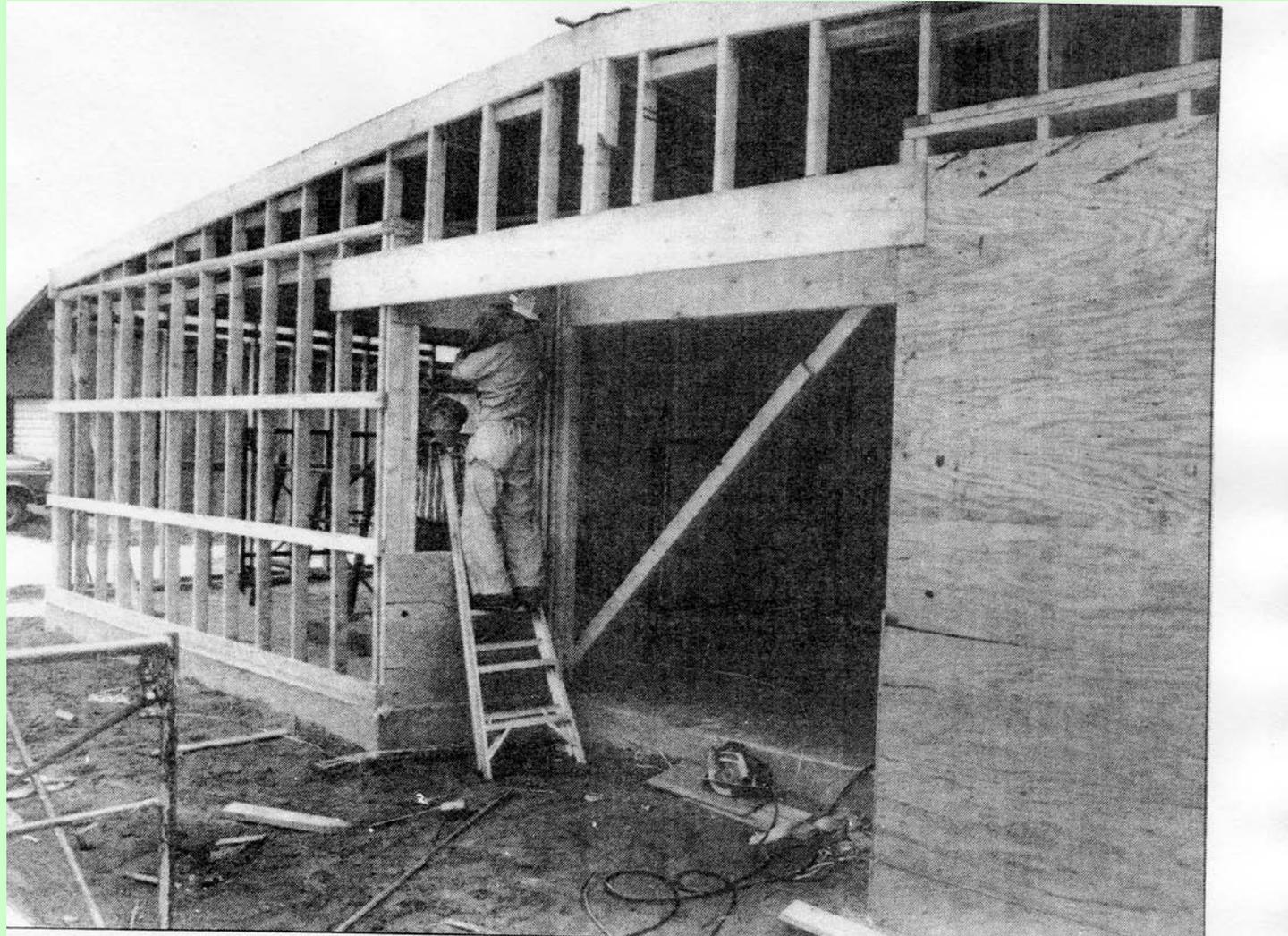


# Hillsboro Senior Center Burning their Mortgage



**Pictured: A. E. Janzen, Financial Chairman, D.D. Regier, President and H.E. Dahl, Treasurer**

# **New entrance added on to the Hillsboro Senior Center in 1981.**

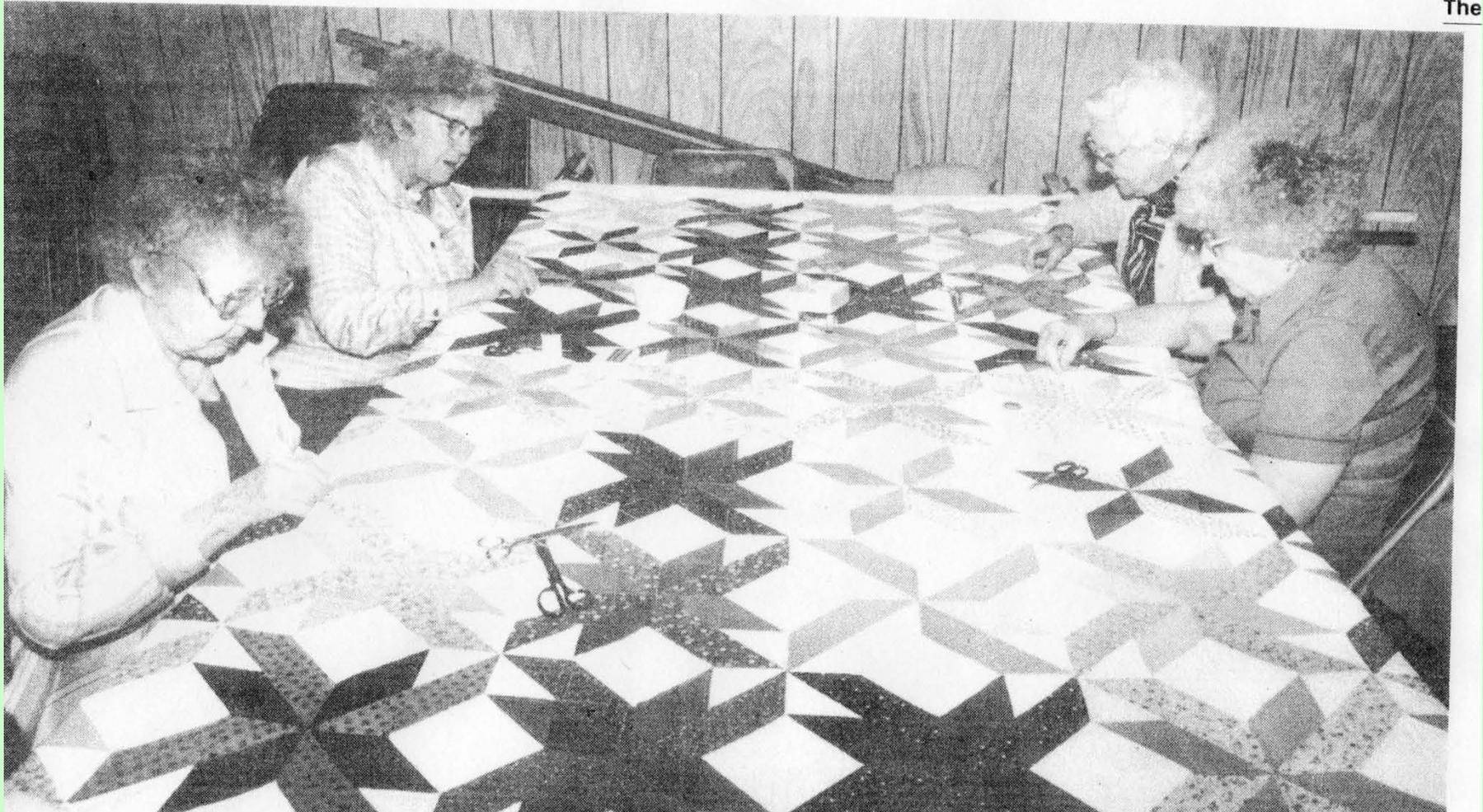


# Dedication of addition to Hillsboro Senior Center in April 1982



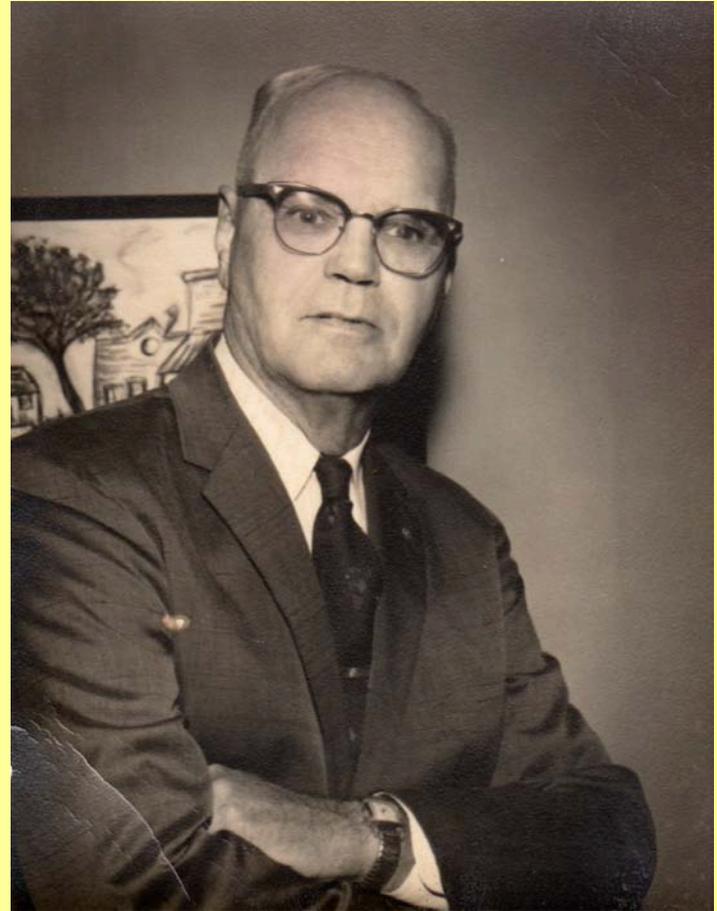
**Mayor Harold Wiebe congratulated those who raised money for the project.**

Quilting at Hillsboro Senior Center provided a source of revenue for the center plus an opportunity for fellowship.



# Marion Senior organization started in 1962.

- “Over 50 Club” was established with \$300 from Ford Foundation. First meeting June 27, 1962.
- Claude Ayler was the first president of the “Over 50 Club”



1965 the Club moved to the City Building from the Deforest Hatchery.



The club moved to the V.F.W. building in 1974 and changed their name to “Senior Citizens of Marion County.”



**The Cooks, who served nutrition meals out of the Hilltop Manor kitchen in 1979.**



# Several senior organizations came together in 1979 to form the “Marion Builders”



- **The purpose of joining was to build a new center which would be a focal point for other senior citizen groups of the county.**
- **Les Fruechting was the first President of this new group.**

# Marion Senior Center being built.



# Marion Builders Senior Center had open house in April 1981



The Focal point for fellowship, food,  
friendship and fun for the older citizens of  
Marion County.



Jan 23, 1983 the burning of the mortgage was celebrated at the Marion Senior Center,



**David Blackim, Marion Senior Center President, Lloyd Davies, Vice-president, Les Fruechting, and Dale Koegoboehn.**

# Marion Singing Grannies in 1983



# Marion Senior Center Today



The Peabody Senior Citizens Club was organized in April 1962 at the Peabody Methodist Church.



# Officers were elected on June 12, 1962

- Jan Pierce was elected as the First President of the club.

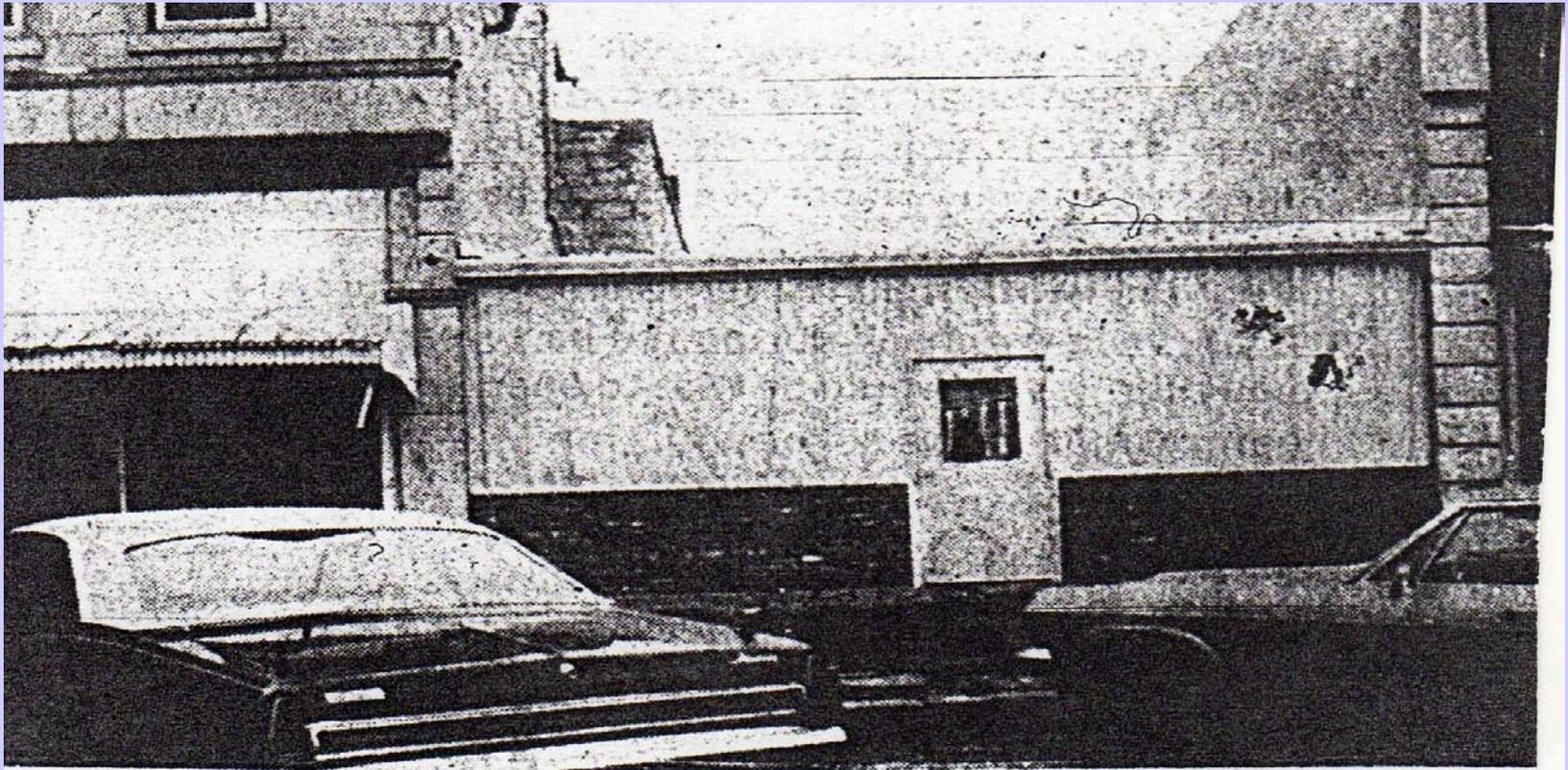
# The Kiwanis Club gave this building to the Peabody Seniors



First meeting in their own building  
in 1975.



This extension to the original building was added in the late 70s



Seniors have been making peppernuts-  
as a money maker for the last 10 years



# Special relationship between Peabody Senior Center and the local nursing home.



- The last several years the Peabody Senior Center has provide a tour of the Christmas lights for residents at Legacy Park plus refreshments after the tour.

# Peabody quilters



# Peabody senior center today



Burns , “Senior Citizens Club organized in fall of 1962, and began meeting in the community building



# A meeting at the old community center in Burns



# The Burns seniors in their building.



# Burns seniors meet in the new Community Building since 2003



Florence 'Over 50 club began in Jan 28,  
1963 met in the Legion Hall in Florence

March 1963 began meeting in  
basement of St. Patrick church



Present meeting place purchased it in 1979.  
They became the incorporated and change  
their name to the Florence Florentines



# Florentine Seniors



# Goessel Golden Years organized in March 1963 and met at Bethesda Home

- Bethesda Home also assisted in serving meals on Tuesday and Thursday before their AGAPE center was built.



Other places the Golden Years group met were at the Goessel grade school and Alexanderfeld Church



1976 The name “All Goessel Are Projects for the Elderly Inc”. was chosen to consolidate all efforts on behalf of older people.

- The initials for this new name was
- “AGAPE” the Greek word for social meal or love feast of primitive Christians that usually accompanied Holy Communion.
- Esther Unruh was the Chairman during AGAPE first year.



# Goessel picking out their future site for their new senior center



1977 Alvin Voth with the plow share breaking the sod for the new center.



# Alvin Voth burning the Goessel mortgage.



# Agape Center Today



# 60+ bus comes to County in January 1977

