



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

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Bob and Marillyn Schlutz inducted into 4-H Hall of Fame

By Carmen Lawrence
Gazette Staff

On Sunday afternoon, August 19, 2012, friends, family, neighbors and fellow fair board members were at the 4-H Building on the Iowa State Fair grounds to witness Bob and Marillyn Schlutz represent Louisa County while they were inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame. Eighty-seven counties had residents recognized for their lifetime contributions in 4-H, and for this couple, who have always tried to give back to their community, it was a veneration they were honored to receive.

Bob and Marillyn's history with 4-H goes back to their childhood. Growing up, Bob was a member of the Letts-Go 4-H Club and Marillyn was a member of the Green Valley 4-H Club in Muscatine County. Later in life, both were volunteer 4-H leaders for different Louisa County 4-H Clubs - Bob lead the Letts-Go club for 5 years and Marillyn was a co-leader of the Pollyanna 4-H Club with Sylvia Chatterton for nine years. Bob spent 3-4 years as Louisa County Beef Superintendent for the fair and Marillyn has been a longtime contributor to the Louisa County 4-H Foundation. Marillyn has also worked several years for the Photography Department in the Floral Hall at the Louisa County Fair and Bob has served on the Louisa County Fair Board (in various roles) for 30-40 years.

Bob has also been on the Iowa State Fair Board for the last 21 years, where he represents 17 county fairs. Just this year, he has been nominated for the Heritage Foundation Award

by the International Fair Association, which meets in Las Vegas this November to give out only five of these awards annually.

Bob and Marillyn have been active purchasers at the Louisa County Fair Auction almost every year since 1979. They have bought animals from young 4-H and FFA exhibitors who sell their livestock after the fair ends. They didn't always buy every year because Bob used to have a policy.

"For a long time, if it wasn't black (angus), I wouldn't buy them," Schlutz said.

To the benefit of Louisa County youth, Bob has changed his own policy. He has been known to just recently buy chickens, and even pigs and goats at the auction, much to his own dismay.

They have also been longtime purchasers at the Iowa State Fair Sale of Champions. Since 1983, they bought the winning 4-H broilers, but eight years ago, their son, Kevin started purchasing the animals. The entire family has donated huge amounts of time and money on 4-H and FFA youth in the state of Iowa.

The couple's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are active in Louisa County 4-H as well. The couple's daughter and son, Lynn and Kevin were in 4-H growing up, and two grandchildren are currently active volunteer leaders in the Louisa County 4-H family. Now, Bob and Marillyn enjoy watching their great-grandchildren participate in 4-H activities.

Most recently, Bob and Marillyn have contributed to 4-H by spear-



heading the planning and construction of the new Louisa County 4-H Youth Building on the fairgrounds. In August 2011, the LC fair board was given a \$50,000 grant from Community Foundation of Louisa County to build new restroom facilities. Bob thought the county could use more than new restrooms on the fairgrounds, so he began looking for an entire building (including restroom and kitchen facilities) that could be utilized for the county fair and various other occasions. After three different designs had been looked at, the

fair board settled on the one they have now. The groundbreaking ceremony on the new building occurred during the 2012 LC Fair, and with any luck, the building will be ready for use during the 2013 LC Fair.

Bob and Marillyn Schlutz have a lifelong history of 4-H activity, leadership, and altruistic endeavors in their own county and statewide. Eighty-seven counties inducted members into the 4-H Hall of Fame, but Louisa County can be sure this year, it has the most generous Hall of Fame inductees of all.

The Lawrence Herrick Story: Chapter 8

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

Last chapter, Lawrence's body was carried from the crash site on a wooden ladder to a farm home where a coffin was built by a Frenchman named Mr. Jacques Boucher. Many French people came and put medals in the coffin with the deceased pilot. Then the Germans announced they wanted the body buried very soon with no homage paid, no funeral, and no French people in attendance. The French people later moved the body into a dirt room underneath a church in the town square. Some say they were hiding it from the Germans; others say the Germans always knew where it was. A grave was dug in the village cemetery by a Frenchman, Mr. Celestin Haguener.

As our story continues, this is how it is told by a Frenchman who was assigned to carry the coffin to the cemetery: Claude Faucheu, who by chance, went to the town hall to ask for a voucher to buy shoes was also requisitioned to carry the coffin to the cemetery along with Frenchmen Mr. Girard, Avelino Ponga, Gerard Faucheu, and Mr. Plancke, a retired military officer. At 14.30 hours, not seeing Mr. Plancke arrive, Mr. Girard decides that the four (of us) will carry the coffin to the cemetery. The doors of the cemetery were wide open and two gendarmes from the Monnaie brigade arrived just as we decided to lower the coffin into the grave. From the corner of my eye I saw a German military car arrive before the cemetery. (Some say it was a French car with Germans hiding in it.) It stopped in front of us and the German officer sitting next to the chauffeur stood up and waited in the car.

All of a sudden, a man arrives completely dressed in black; his gloves in his hand. He walks up the central aisle passing in front of the German officer to go to the grave site of the American pilot. "Kommen Sie!" (Come here!) commands the German officer. The man turns, advances a few steps in the officer's direction, clicks his heels and says, "I am a former officer of the French Army. I have come to the burial of a soldier. All soldiers merit a tribute for the sacrifice they have made for their nation. My name is Plancke; I live north of Reugny. I

have two sons who are fighting in North Africa with the French Army." Another click of the heels and our hero, Mr. Plancke, continues on toward the gravesite of the American pilot. He bows before the remains, which during this time we have lowered into the ground. What will be the reaction of the German officer? We are very uneasy. Mr. Plancke passes again in front of the German without looking at him and returns down the cemetery path. No reaction from the German! His courage has paid off!

In the next few months, the French people defy continually the Germans and come to the cemetery and leave flowers at the grave of Major Lawrence Herrick. Also Mr. Bremon and his brother, who removed the plane's propeller from the crash site, took the propeller to the cemetery and erected it with the flowers and the wooden cross on the gravesite. (Note: In the picture of Herrick's gravesite in France, you can see the propeller coming down from the flag and also on the right side, almost to the ground.) It is told that the Germans were very angry about this activity, but for some reason chose not to harm or arrest the brave French people. Perhaps the Germans feared that all the French would rise against them, one does not know, but the Germans stood back.

Mr. Plancke, who had bowed at the gravesite as the Germans looked on during the actual burial of Major Herrick, once again showed another great act of bravery. On November 1st, 1944 he and others returned to the grave for a funeral with words spoken.

Here are excerpts from what Albert Plancke said: We wish to integrate you into our pious cemetery, to include you among our own, who, on this All Saints' Day are in our memories, our affectionate thoughts, our prayers and our contemplation. Foremost in our mind is still the last dramatic moments of your life, in which, on a sunny day such as this and in a truly apotheosis of sacrifice, your life was lost as in a clash of thunder.

Unanimously then, we found ourselves united to recover the body of this handsome young man that you had been concerned and reflexive—as Reugny prepared for you the beautiful funeral and homage well deserved by a soldier fallen on the battlefield for a shared ideal. We knew how much we would have to pay—the Teutonic boot is heavy and

these last four years of repression will never be erased from our memory. Since the 5th of August you have found yourself far from your native land, in our beautiful France, in Touraine, this field of eternal rest. And it is to offer our recognition to you, who I can say, was truly the messenger of liberation. And it is also to replace your family, on this day of the dead that all Reugny comes to visit you.

All France turns today toward its martyrs, its heroes of sacrifice, the poor populations strafed on the road; those shot down. Should I cite the locations of these massacres? All the provinces of France are counted in. My mind refuses to describe in detail the cruelty, the horrors of the German Crimes.

Let us render homage to all who have fallen, full of hope, for the victorious reestablishment of the homeland. Let us salute their memory and follow their example (...)

Let us be worthy of our glorious past, France is convalescing, let us lift her up through our labor to give her all that is necessary to quickly rebuild her noble blood. Forget our quarrels, follow our leaders blindly. We were there, listening to their voices, in the darkness of our despair. May they find us present for action, on the eve of Victory. We, all of us, on these solemn moments, have to be aware of the great task to come, for a better understanding of what we shall have to endeavor. Decisive victory has a price, men and women of France. Let us rise to the occasion for our homeland!

Thus did Albert Plancke speak the words over the grave of Major Lawrence Herrick.

Our family cannot thank him enough. How comforting to know that Major Herrick had such moving words spoken over him and from a man who never knew him, a man who was not even a minister. Now, here is the saddest part of today's entire story. Albert Plancke was very excited that our family was coming to Reugny, France and would be a part of the May 8th ceremony. Plancke had his

speech all prepared for us and couldn't wait to meet us. Albert Plancke, a man who will always and always be our hero, died two days before we got there. How tragic for him and for us. In a moment I shall never forget, Plancke's grandson delivered his dead grandfather's speech at the commemorative dinner. His grandson cried while reading this. His grandson also had no idea, until the recent research on Lawrence Herrick, that his grandfather had even done this brave deed, and done it twice.

What can we, the family of Lawrence Herrick, say to these wonderful, wonderful people? There are no words, only tears and hugs that can put a slight chink in the armor of our gratitude. I thank God for their existence and a bravery and defiance that cannot be surpassed. The saga of Major Lawrence Herrick tells of many, many other heroes, not just the deceased pilot. Thus it is their saga, just as much as it is his.

Is the story of Major Herrick now ended? No, I want to tell you about the ceremony on May 8th, 2012 in Reugny, France, the wonderful people there, and all the people who spent weeks putting together this information. I want to tell you about the witnesses who saw and/or heard the crash of Major Lawrence Herrick and are still alive. Even though I know I have to end this story sometime, it will be difficult.

As always, thanks to the people of Reugny, France for the information and wording, the reports of all the witnesses, and for just being you. Thanks, also, to **Forced Landing** for the information and being the force of it all.



Briefly -

Gazette to set holiday deadline

Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the Gazette deadlines for news and advertising will be noon on Friday, August 31, 2012.

Lions Club Pancake Supper

The Columbus Junction Lions Club will be holding their Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, September 1, and Sunday, September 2, at the Community Senior Center, 125 E. Walnut St. All-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, eggs, syrups, coffee, milk and juice will be served from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. Cost is adults - \$6.00 and children under 12 - \$4.00. Come and support our fundraiser; help support our annual scholarship awards, free vision screening for preschoolers and financial assistance for individuals with vision and hearing impairments.

UMW to hold luncheon meeting

The United Methodist Women of Columbus Junction, will eat out on Wednesday, September 5th at 92 Roadhouse. Please meet at the church at 11 a.m. to carpool. Dinner will follow at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will follow with election of officers and closing plans for the dinner in the church on September 6.

Class of 1982 to hold Reunion

Attention Columbus Community Class of 1982 (and parents): Some of us have been making plans for our 30th year class reunion. We still need some addresses; if you can help - that would be great! We want to find as many classmates as possible. Our plans are: Columbus Day Weekend - Friday, October 12th at 7 p.m. meet and greet at Rumors and Excuses; Saturday, October 13th watch parade at Rumors and Excuses, 5-8 p.m. dinner at the Thirsty Camel, then go to an exclusive location for a night of fun. Any questions or addresses please call Deb (Sands) Halstead at 319-750-2636.

Jack Cecil Columbus Day Car Show

The 2nd Annual Jack Cecil Columbus Day Car Show will be held on Saturday, October 13th from 8-noon. Registration ends at 10 with awards at 11:15. Bring your hot rod, custom, muscle or classic car or truck, even motorcycle to join in raising money for a local family impacted by cancer. This is held in conjunction with the Columbus Day Celebration. Come join the festivities, join in the parade after and have fun with the crowd. We are asking a \$20 entry donation to help raise funds. Top 25 awards, Best of Show, special awards also. Door prizes are being sought. For more information contact Curt Larkin 641-990-4436 or curt.larkin@johnston.k12.ia.us. Special invite to the class of '82 to bring out your special rides and relive some of the "high school" spirit during your reunion!

Columbus Day Ideas

Please submit ideas for the Columbus Day theme or for the Columbus Day Distinguished Citizens to Sue Johnson at Plants and Things or John Carpenter at the GAZETTE office by Friday, September 14th. Columbus Day will be celebrated on October 13th.

Early Childhood Board to meet

The Early Childhood Iowa Area Board Des Moines/Louisa Counties will be meeting on September 5, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the First United Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle St., Mediapolis, IA.

OES to meet in September 10th

Due to the Labor Day holiday, Emma Beckman Chapter 445, Order of the Eastern Star, will meet on September 10, 2012, at 2 p.m. at the Masonic Center.

Historical Society Fall Festival

On Saturday, September 15, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Louisa County Historical Society will hold its Fall Festival. The meal (eat in or carry out) will include: creamed chicken on biscuits or loose hamburgers, cole slaw, baked beans, pie and desserts. Area craft vendors from Wapello, Burlington and Columbus Junction will be attending. Come visit the museum and displays, come eat (a free will offering will be accepted), come look and buy. Help to support YOUR Louisa County Historical Museum in Wapello, Iowa. Thanks for attending the FREE museum stops on Sunday, August 5, 2012!

Morning Sun Health Fair

Mark your calendars! The 10th Annual Morning Sun Care Center Health and Wellness Fair will be held Monday, September 24 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Morning Sun Community Building. A wide variety of vendors will be offering health screenings and information for all ages. Flu shots will be available. More details coming soon!

Presbyterian Women to meet

The Presbyterian Women will meet Wednesday, September 5th in the Education Building at 2 p.m. Verlee Schneider and Wanda Carson will be hostesses and Wanda Carson will lead a study of lesson #8 from the Horizons Magazine on the Beatitudes. All women are welcome.

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will hold a special public meeting on Thursday, August 30, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. at the Columbus Administrative Office.

U of Iowa Mobile Clinic in C.J.

The University of Iowa's Mobile Clinic program will be holding upcoming clinics in Columbus Junction to provide physicals, health screenings, health education and other services. The clinics will be on Saturday, September 22nd, Saturday, October 20th and Saturday, November 17th from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Wilma Sime Roundy Elementary School.

Law enforcement heightens traffic enforcement over Labor Day

The Louisa County Sheriff's Office will participate in the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), an initiative of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The Louisa County Sheriff's Office will devote heightened enforcement on Louisa County roads from now through September 5th. During the STEP project, the Louisa County Sheriff's Office will focus on removing drunk and impaired drivers from the roadways.