

2005

Wagonhammer Dedication

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Ann Bunting

GSL "Advisory Board"
Padrusky -

Wagonhammer Dedication
Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory

August 31, 2005

John C. Owens

NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor

What a tremendous pleasure it is to be here today to "dedicate" our new Wagonhammer Education Center and the Ray (Boh-ee) Bohy Conference-Room it contains. I look at this building and I think of all the ways it can and will "enhance" education, learning, and research conducted "here" at the Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory. That thought delights me, "both" on behalf of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the work we do here, and on behalf of the Nebraskans - "and others" - who come here to learn, and to grow their "knowledge and skills" for the future.

The Wagonhammer Education Center is 9,100 square feet of building dedicated to "both" discovery and learning. It contains a "wonderful" 3,600 square feet conference room - the Ray Bohy Conference Room - that will accommodate up to 300 people for

agricultural events and courses throughout the year.

The Wagonhammer Education Center 'also' contains office-
and-classroom space, a sample-preparation-room equipped to
'prepare' samples as specimens for scientific study in our
university laboratories, and 'room' in which we can present
science demonstrations for school-age students.

We in the Institute are so excited about 'all' the educational
possibilities the Wagonhammer Education Center with its Ray
Bohy Conference Room 'offers.' This is a tremendous gift that will
benefit Nebraskans and those studying, researching, and
teaching at Nebraska's great land-grant university for
generations to come.

'Two gifts' ^{TO} ~~from~~ the University of Nebraska Foundation
'allowed' us to break ground for this building in 2003. Elaine and
James Wolf of Albion provided the 'lead gift' for the project in
2001. We so appreciate the vision and the generosity of these
'great-friends' of the university, 'because' without that vision and
generosity we would not be celebrating the new Wagonhammer

Education Center today.

I believe the Wolfs' vision of the importance of education, the value it brings to us all, and the benefits education provides a state and its citizens, is exemplified in this building we dedicate ~~here~~ today. It is named after the Wolf family's Wagonhammer-Cattle-Company, which has been in the Wolf family for three generations.

We are so happy Elaine Wolf, her son Jay, Jay's wife Susie and several key-employees of Wagonhammer are with us today as we dedicate this building. We thank the Wolf family for all you've done to turn educational vision into reality.

While Jim Wolf passed away in 2002, we need only look around today to begin to understand the legacy he left our state. I'd like to tell you a little bit about Jim today, and about Elaine, and about Ray Bohy, who provided the second-gift that made our new Wagonhammer Education Center possible.

Jim Wolf was a cattleman, a banker, and a philanthropist who was active in many, many organizations. His memberships

included the Beef Improvement Association, the Nebraska Cattlemen Association, and the Sandhills Cattlemen Association. He supported the Center for Rural Affairs and the Appleseed Foundation. He was a University of Nebraska Foundation trustee, a position also held by Elaine Wolf.

In 1999 Jim Wolf received a Nebraska Builder Award, the university's highest honor. He was a Nebraska builder, all right, and evidence of that is seen here today and in other parts of Nebraska, as well. In 1995, the Block and Bridle Club at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln named him its Man-of-the-Year. Jim Wolf served on the national-board of the Anti-Defamation League, as well as in many other areas.

I'd like to tell you a little bit about Elaine today, also, and some of her many accomplishments over the years. As an active member of the Nebraska statewide community, Elaine Wolf has served as a member of the Board of Governors, vice chairman, and member of the executive committee of Nebraska Wesleyan University, and a member of the board of Nebraska Public

Television and Nebraska Public Radio. The Wolfs established the James and Elaine Wolf Nebraska Educational Telecommunications “Excellence Fund” to benefit public radio.

Elaine is a member of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor’s Club and President’s Club, as was Jim. The Wolfs provided the Schlesinger Professorship for “Social-Justice” at UNL’s Judaic studies department, and supported the Leadership Education/Action Development (LEAD) program, among many other activities and contributions.

In addition, the Wolfs “long” have been known as great supporters of their hometown of Albion, and of Boone County, where Albion is located, as well as of Nebraska.

As I said earlier, we are so happy Elaine, Jay, and Susie Wolf and several Wagonhammer employees can be with us today as we dedicate the Wagonhammer Education Center. “Thank you” for being here, and thank you for all you do for our land-grant university and our state.

I also want to tell you a “little bit” about ^{the late} Ray Bohy of Davey

today. It was Ray Bohy's estate that provided the second gift that made this building possible.

For more than 30 years, Ray Bohy worked for us in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources as our ranch and livestock manager. He started our Rodeo Club at the university so our students would have the opportunity to work with horses and compete in rodeos across the region. Obviously, Ray Bohy was a man "committed" to education, to students, and to helping them learn. In 1998 Ray "established" the Ray and Mildred Bohy Scholarship to provide ongoing support for students in the Rodeo Club.

Ray Bohy contributed his skills, talents, and dedication to the Institute for over 30 years in his role as the Institute's ranch and livestock manager. He helped further the work we do. We name the Ray Bohy Conference Room ^{Talix} to commemorate Ray's more than 30 years of support and service to the Institute, the university, and Nebraska, and his generous gifts to us.

As we dedicate this building today we also "thank" those

donors whose contributions have allowed us to equip our sample-preparation-room, so important to our research efforts here. You will find three dedication plaques in this building; one of those plaques contains the names of these donors. Thank you for your support-and-vision.

I also want to thank Don Adams, our interim-director at the West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte, who has worked over the years on behalf of this project to meet a need identified by our scientists who conduct work here, and their clientele who benefit so-greatly from that University work. Thanks to Bob Skates, our facilities manager at West Central and ~~the~~ project manager, for this new building who worked with architects Joseph R. Hewgley and Associates of North Platte to get the needed-plans drawn up. And thanks, too, to Andy Applegarth, our manager here at the Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory, for his many contributions.

As I end my remarks today I also want to thank each member of the Institute team who has worked so hard to make

today's open house a success. I am proud of the fine work being showcased today, and of the equally fine work necessary to make a day like this a success.

Thank you to all of you who are with us here today. And thank you again to the Wolf family - for your vision, and for your caring-and-commitment for Nebraska, Nebraskans, and their land-grant university. Our new Wagonhammer Education Center, with its Ray Bohy Conference Center, benefits education-and-learning here now, and in the future for the benefit of Nebraska.

Thank you.

Ann Bury
all donors + paper
present -
Stone - out front
photo