

## What's Developing

In the look back at the history of the Eureka Community Development Company, this column will focus on the year's events of 1998. It was a year of hope and disappointment as Sheldahl opened and closed all during the year, then negotiations began with The Connection to continue providing employment for local and area workers.

Money was received from Al Neuharth to remodel and improve the Information Booth. That was done and turned into the current Information Center. Weisbeck Construction was low bidder for the construction project and was named as the company to build it. ECDC's propane tank from the building in the industrial park was moved to the Information Center when a larger tank was leased by Sheldahl. Asphalt for the parking lot was provided by the State when they were in the area. The City of Eureka is owner of the building, and ECDC was responsible for setting the policies for use of the building. Dakota Woodworking built the conference table, and chairs for the conference room were purchased. An all-day open house was held on Sept. 25 so people could see the facility, and Walter and Al Neuharth were present for the dedication ceremony that day. Added were a flagpole and flag by the American Legion, a business card holder by Chamber, and framed maps of the area.

The 12 Sheldahl employees traveling to Aberdeen and currently working in Eureka were honored for their efforts. They were Ruby Gab, Verlena Mehlhaff, Donna Moos, Darlene Ritter (original 4) and the other 8 who began commuting later were Ronald Gab, Amber Metzger, Angie Ritter, T.J. Haerich, Michael Schumacher, Sylvia Schumacher and Donna Rossow.

The annual meeting speaker was Dick Edenstrom, Eureka Sheldahl plant manager. Employment was 25 at the time. Sheldahl closed near the end of the year, and ECDC and City Council met to discuss how they could bring The Connection to Eureka.

Keith and Darcy Kramlich of K&A Implement were presented with the Distinguished Service Award by the SD Retailers Association.

A YBA Scholarship was presented to Dustin Jarhaus.

David Roggenkamp (ECDC board member) replaced Mel Geist on NESDEC Board of Directors.

An additional loan was made to Eureka Bakery for building improvements. A group working on an indoor swimming pool met with the board of directors.

Attachments International visited Eureka as a possible site for their expanding business, and ECDC board members traveled to MN to visit their company. Thousands of letters and postcards were sent throughout the year to try to attract more businesses to Eureka. A Duckwall/Alco representative visited Eureka and other area towns.

Phone service was switched to Valley that year.

Chamber was trying to get more people involved in their organization; ECDC co-sponsored a speaker from Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce and refreshments for the meeting.

*Wanda Jundt*