

Leaving their mark

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Thursday, 05 August 2010 13:43 -



Devines' imprint on the land remains.

Morris and Cora (Gray) Devine have left footprints upon the rolling prairie on which they've lived and worked.

As a result, the farm—seven miles north of Gothenburg and nestled at the foot of the Sandhills near Custer County—was aptly named “Foothill Farm.”

The Devine family was recently honored as a Dawson County Pioneer Farm Family for having farm ground in the same family for more than 100 years.

The land has been in the family since 1889 when John and Tina Siemmering, who immigrated from Germany, set up a homestead on 320 acres. Cora, who is a granddaughter, still has a trunk from the old country filled with German papers.

“The only thing my grandparents told me about when they bought the farm was that it was originally railroad land,” she said.

Cora lived with her grandparents for a year when she was 5 after her father died from a kidney ailment. Her mother Grace stayed on the farm in Custer County until it was sold. The two then moved into Gothenburg where Grace cleaned houses and worked at Beath's Hotel on Lake Avenue.

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Mr & Mrs. Elizabeth Barrett, 100 years old, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple are shown holding their wedding certificates, which were presented to them by the local council. The certificates are framed and feature the council's logo and text.