

## **That's How It's "Dun" – Myrlen and Susan Hein Recognized for their Service to Dunlap**

Myrlen and Susan Hein are this quarter's recipients of DCDC's "That's How It's Dun" Award. This award is part of a community service recognition program created to honor those who go above and beyond in their volunteer service contributions to the Dunlap community.

Both Myrlen and Susan grew up in the Dunlap area. They have one son, Ryan, who lives with his wife Seanna, and grandchildren Reid and Wynter in Bellevue, NE. They also have one daughter, Carissa, who lives with her husband Jales in Omaha.

"Dunlap is home," said Susan. "It is where both our families are from, and where we and our children graduated school from. We are proud to show all Dunlap has to offer to visiting relatives. They are always impressed and love coming back. Small town life is the best."

Myrlen is retired from working maintenance at Dunlap Nursing and Rehab. He currently works part-time at Dunlap Lumber and Home Supply. Meanwhile, Susan is retired from being a teacher's aide at Boyer Valley Schools.

The Heins have been members of the Friends of the Library group in Dunlap since its initiation. Susan is a past board member. She helps decorate the Dunlap Public Library and get it ready for sales or programs. She also assists by weeding and pruning the shrubbery in the landscape area in front of the library.

"It is important to give back to the place you grew up in, and that holds many memories. I grew up loving to read and going to the library with my sister. I wanted our children to have the same experience. The library is very important to me, so that's where I volunteer the most," Susan shared.

At St. John Lutheran Church in Dunlap, Susan is an Altar Guild Member, a volunteer responsible for preparing the altar for worship services. She is also a past teacher for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Myrlen also served on the St. John Lutheran Church Council.

Myrlen's woodworking skills have benefitted the community in many ways. The Heins can often be found hosting a vendor booth at Dunlap's annual Art at the Park and Shop Hop events. He donated his time and talents to build the Christmas tree and candy corn-shaped seasonal stakes for the Main Street planters. He also constructed a beautiful stovetop cover for the stove at the Dunlap Senior Center. Myrlen also repaired

the nostalgic Dunlap carnival games, by rebuilding parts of the Car Game and repairing the motor for the duck pond.

“I like fixing things and helping people,” Myrlen explained.

“When we hosted the Dunlap Carnival in 2023, Myrlen not only repaired some of the games, he showed up with his toolbelt on just in case anything needed adjustments!” shared Jill Schaben, DCDC Executive Director.

Myrlen and Susan completely refurbished Dunlap’s 4<sup>th</sup> of July “Kiddie Train,” originally built in 1964, with the help of their grandchildren, Reid and Wynter, as well as Susan’s brother, Randy Buter. This process included replacing the sides and seats, replacing the axles, tires and wheel bearings. replacing the tongue hitches and adding frames for the sponsor signs. Myrlen continues to help prepare for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event by checking the train each year and making any necessary repairs.

Myrlen and Susan have been volunteers during the Dunlap 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities. Recently, Myrlen made a wood star stencil so that stars could be spray painted on the grass, to enhance the park for the festivities.

The Heins donated perennials to the Dunlap Railroad Heritage Stairs exhibit. They also installed the black metal letters that spell “DUNLAP” on the back wall of the Dunlap Pocket Park.

More recently, Myrlen helped modify some metal posts that will soon be installed at the Disc Golf Course at Pleasant View Park.

When asked what they love about Dunlap, Susan responded, “Dunlap has people who care about preserving the past while also improving it for the future. People care about helping each other and making things better.”

“I agree with Susan’s statement,” added Jill, “and Myrlen and Susan are true examples of ‘people who care!’”

The Heins encourage others to actively pursue volunteerism when and where they can in the Dunlap community, with many opportunities available.

“We have awesome organizations that provide activities for all ages from summer reading programs at the library, to activities at the senior center and for residents at the care center,” said Susan. “We have 4-H, Scouts, church activities, school activities, youth sports, two parks with playgrounds and a volunteer fire department. There is also

Art in the Park, Shop Hop, the fantastic Fourth of July parade and activities. All of these activities require volunteers.

Volunteering is fun and rewarding. You meet other people who have the same interests as you. You feel a sense of accomplishment and pride in helping. Answer yes when there is a request for help.”

“Myrlen and Susan have stepped up in so many ways,” added Jill. “They are salt-of-the-earth people, who I am proud to know, and I appreciate so much, the ways that they have supported Dunlap through the years. There is a great sense of community pride in our awesome town – and it is because of people like the Heins.”

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Know someone who deserves recognition for their service to Dunlap? Visit [dunlapia.com](http://dunlapia.com) and click the Resources tab to access the “That’s How It’s Dun” nomination form. Four Dunlap area residents will be recognized annually. Contact Jill Schaben with questions at [dunlapdcdc@gmail.com](mailto:dunlapdcdc@gmail.com)

