

*\*\*This information is to the best of our knowledge. Please submit edits/more information to [DunlapDCDC@gmail.com](mailto:DunlapDCDC@gmail.com). We are looking for facts only currently (business names, owners, dates, and photos.)*

## 304 N 6th

**Current Business:** The Town and Country Store  
Owned by Brad and Lisa Gross since 2000

**Previous Businesses:**  
Heller's Town and Country  
Dunlap Oil Co.

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1867 – Dunlap was platted





March 17, 1960 – Dunlap Reporter

## **Dunlap Oil Co. Sold to Hellers**

### **Father and Son Buy from Honaker**

A deal was completed last Wednesday in which Leo Heller and son John purchased the Dunlap Oil Co., its stock and equipment from Dean Honaker. They also purchased the station property and bulk storage facilities from Mrs. Marian Cruise.

According to announcement made this week, John Heller will continue the operation of the tank-wagon and Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Smith will continue to operate the Mobil station on highway 30. Mr. Honaker had been in the oil business in Dunlap the past 16 years. He had operated the Cruise property under lease the past few years. He had formerly operated a station across the street north from the Dunlap Library before that time.

## Hellers' Town and Country Plans Grand Opening

By DORIS BINGHAM

"It's the trend of the industry," say John and Sharon Heller in explaining the reason for opening **Hellers' Town** and **Country** mini market on Highway 30.

With farmers conserving and small cars cutting down on gas purchases, the trend has been toward self-service and mini markets for highway service stations, Sharon elaborated.

John and Sharon have been talking about a mini market for five years and waited for the determination on the threatened temporary closing of Highway 30 to make the final plunge.

The store opened on Feb. 22 and is holding a Grand Opening on Friday and Saturday this week with special bargains offered both days and balloons for the kids.

The bad weather in recent weeks has prevented them

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John and Sharon Heller in Hellers' Town and Country



Ready for Grand Opening

# Hellers Town and Country Plans Opening

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from getting some of the finishing touches completed on the mini mart. There is still cement work to be done on the drives and the trim on the building isn't finished.

There were those in the industry who said self-service would never go, John said. But it's practically taken over the pump business. John continues to keep the old station open with full service and a garage for repairs.

The gas business is unstable, he explained further, with a constant fluctuation in prices. In recent months there has been a decline but since the first of April there was not only the 5¢ a gallon gas tax added but also an increase in the wholesale price of 3 to 5¢ a gallon.

The mini market has been a new experience for the Hellers. Sharon got some assistance from a woman running a similar store elsewhere in buying the initial stock but she's made changes which seemed more appropriate for the local situation. There's a lot of guesswork as they wait to see what kind of products are requested and purchased.

It's been demanding on time too. They have put in a lot of hours at the store with a seven-day-a-week schedule. "John's folks have helped a lot with

the children," said Sharon. John and Sharon have three children including Angie 11, Johnnie 9, and Eddie 7.

John was born and raised in Dunlap and graduated from St. Joseph High School. He drove a rock truck for his uncle, Dean Honaker, at Dunlap Oil Co. and ran the tank wagon in the winter before purchasing the business from Honaker.

At one time, Honaker said, the station belonged to Dave Cruse. There is still a C & M on the bulk tank standing for Cruse and McIntosh. There were cabins in the area where the mini market is now located.

John was fire chief for 14 years and continues to be active on the fire department. He was president of the Booster Club at the time of the Centennial in 1967 when Minnie Pearl was the celebrity guest. The red fire unit was purchased with funds received from the Centennial.

It was during the Centennial that Sharon first met John. He was growing a beard at the time in recognition of the celebration.

Sharon was born and raised in Ashland, Neb. She attended the University of Nebraska for two years and worked for nine years for a Savings and Loan Association in Omaha.

She is currently president of the board of the Dunlap

Housing and Development Corporation and served as president of the Community Chest for three years. She worked as city clerk when she first came to Dunlap.

Both John and Sharon are active in church activities at St. Patrick's. John and Sharon are members of the choir and Sharon recently joined Catholic Daughters.

"Dunlap is a good place to live. People are always willing to give a helping hand. They look after one another. Just like when the electricity went out, residents were checking on one another."

Sharon said she had enough of living in the city during the nine years she worked in Omaha.



## Arts Festival For Glenwood Benefit

Staff and residents at Glenwood State Hospital-School are in the process of planning their Second Annual "Very Special Arts Festival." The event will be held on the Glenwood Hospital-School Campus on Wednesday, April 27 from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. and is co-sponsored with the Iowa Committee on Arts for the Handi-

April 21, 1983 – Dunlap Reporter



CROWD GATHERS for Pepsi Challenge at **Hellers Town** and **Country** Grand Opening which was held Friday and Saturday.

# Thank You!

We express our many thanks to all who contributed to make the grand opening of our **new** business a great success. Thank you to all who sent good wishes, flowers, gifts, cards, fruit and food baskets and to those who came to our celebration. Dunlap! You're a great community!

The winners of the drawings are listed below and you can stop in anytime between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. to claim your prize.

John and Sharon Heller  
Angie, Johnny and Eddie

**West Bend Air Corn Popper — Doug Hansen**

**A & W Beach Umbrella — Betty Melby**

**\$10 Gas —**

Howard Nauroth  
Wayne Elwell  
Leonard Stinn  
Linda Lehan  
Desi Smith  
Randy Kepford  
Linda Rogers  
William A. Wadsworth  
Leonard Krajicek  
Rita Heffernan

**8 pack 16 oz. R.C. Cola —**

Laurie Hard  
Denise Swenson  
Gail Hicks  
Eva Schmitt  
Frank Frazier  
Bonnie Heller

**8 pack 16 oz. Pepsi —**

Norma Sullivan  
Marie A. Bissen  
William Wadsworth, Sr.  
Chris Clapp  
Joyce Kinzer  
Bill Baldwin

**8 pack 16 oz. Coke —**

Hope Truitt  
Darrell Goeser  
Ronnie Allen  
Brian Culver  
Lynn Langholz  
Henry Springer

**Tony's Pizza —**

Jane Hanigan  
Bernie Schaben  
Dan Kline  
Tom Amsberry  
Evelyn Wadsworth  
Marty Heffernan

**\$10 Groceries —**

Kenneth Anderson  
Bill Renz  
Pam Baldwin

**Bluegrass Seed —**

Mary Riester  
Gay Melby

**HELLERS Town and Country**

Highway 30

Dunlap, Iowa

643-5102

December 26, 1985 – Dunlap Reporter



# Season's Greetings

May 1986 find you healthy and prosperous. Have a fantastic New Year.

**Dunlap Oil Co.**

**HELLERS' TOWN & COUNTRY**

JOHN AND SHARON HELLER

643-5102 — 643-9504

Dunlap

## Convenience store sale is effective Oct. 1

John and Sharon Heller, operators of Hellers' Town & Country for the last 16 1/2 years, have sold the convenience store to Lisa Jumps and Brad Gross.

The new owners will take control on Oct. 1 under the name of "The **Town & Country Store**."

The store will close for inventory at noon on Thursday, Sept. 30 and will reopen on Friday, Oct. 1.

John and Sharon Heller will not be leaving the Dunlap business scene. They will continue to own and operate Dunlap Oil Company for tankwagon deliveries and bulk oil sales. The business will be located at 601 Montague St. and the phone number will continue to be 712-643-5102. (See the related advertisement in this issue as John and Sharon Heller express their gratitude to their customers and employees).

Lisa Jumps and Brad Gross reside on a farm between Dunlap and Earling on Highway 37.

Lisa is a native of Culbertson, Neb., and is a graduate of the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. She previously worked for Allied Group Insurance in Des Moines.



Lisa Jumps and Brad Gross will operate The Town & Country Store beginning Oct. 1.

Brad Gross is a native of Earling and is a graduate of Iowa State University. He previously worked as a certified public accountant at Roth & Company, P.C., in Des Moines. He currently works as a CPA for Mahoney Associates in Denison.

Said Lisa and Brad about their purchase of the business: "We are excited about the opportunity to

acquire such an established business.

"The current great staff will be continuing and we hope to provide you with the same great service you have been accustomed to in the past.

"We are looking forward to serving the community of Dunlap and the surrounding area."

## *New Ownership*

Hellers' Town & Country will change ownership effective Friday, October 1, 1999. The new owners are Lisa Jumps and Brad Gross who will be operating the convenience store under the name of "The **Town & Country Store**" at 712-643-5827.

We are not leaving the business scene because we will still own and operate Dunlap Oil Co. for tankwagon deliveries and bulk oil sales. Our telephone will remain 712-643-5102 at 601 Montague St.

At noon on Thursday, September 30, the store will close for inventory and reopen Friday, Oct. 1 under the new ownership.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your great patronage! Needless to say, we have enjoyed serving you and working with you the last 16 1/2 years. We have had a lot of fun in this endeavor and know that Brad & Lisa are very anxious to work with you.

We are so fortunate to have worked with the greatest employees. They have been part of our family and we were privileged to have worked with them. We are happy that they have consented to stay on with Brad and Lisa.

Again, thank you very much,  
John & Sharon Heller

## Town & Country's grand opening



Brad Gross and Lisa Jumps, operators of The **Town & Country Store** on Highway 30 in Dunlap, receive a plant from Mary Jo Bonsall, DDC board member, at the convenience store's grand opening Saturday. Brad and Lisa, who acquired the store from John and Sharon Heller, treated guests to donuts in the morning and to hot dogs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### **The Town & Country Store Thank You!**

We want to thank everyone who attended our Grand Opening Saturday and helped make the day so special. The flowers and gifts were much appreciated. A special thanks to the employees for making it such a success and John & Sharon Heller for all their support.

*Lisa & Brad*

October 19, 2000 – Dunlap Reporter

## First Anniversary



Free hamburgers, hot dogs and pop were the order of the day Saturday as Brad and Lisa Gross celebrated their first anniversary of operating the [Town & Country Store](#) with a Customer Appreciation Day