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Mike Allen presents Dick Grosch with the 2024 Wayne Madsen Award for Community Service at the February Nebraska Water Industries Convention in Kearney.

Photo by Jason Orton
The Nebraska Well Drillers Association is celebrating its 95th Anniversary this year. Since the association’s inception in 1929, many techniques and technologies have advanced the professional. But beyond these advancements, the association has always been about the people and their personalities that have been the guardians of the well drilling culture in Nebraska. In fact, Vance Anderson of the Western Land Roller Company in Hastings was pivotal in recording the history of water well development in the State of Nebraska...in this issue of “Water Writes” and the next subsequent issues this year, we will share excerpts from Vance’s book “Development of Irrigation Well Drilling in Nebraska” with you to celebrate the 95th Anniversary. We are extremely grateful for the work that Vance Anderson did in his career and his foresight in chronicling and preserving the history of the Nebraska Well Drilling industry. We have received permission to share the various chapters as they originally appeared in his book published in 1981.
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  - Blue-White Industries
  - MJK or Seametrics Magmeters

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  - Bosch Heat Pumps
  - Comfort-Aire Heat Pumps
  - Thermally-Enhanced Grouts
  - Centennial Geo Pipe
Letter From the President
by Casey Christensen

I feel rushed as I put a few words down on paper for all of you. It is a typical Monday morning here in northeast Nebraska. Ron, Jimmy, Adam, Tyler, and Peyton are drilling a irrigation well down by West Point. Carly and Christian are drilling a test hole northeast of Hartington. Connor and Tim are setting irrigation pumps just a few miles east of our shop. Haley and I are in the office answering the phone, responding to emails, attempting to make out bills, etc. etc. At this time only one “no water” call. It may have to wait until school gets out at 3:30 so Hutch and I can take care of that. He is in 5th grade and usually resists coming to work, but once we are out doing something he does admit that this is fun! He likes to run the levers when we are using the small boom truck. Plenty of stress to go around.

As I look at the work sheets on my desk, I wonder when some of these jobs get any attention? College and high school boys will be here in a few weeks, that is always a big help in the daily demands.

I hope some of you plan to come to Hartington for the summer picnic. Mark your calendar, July 26-27. Until then, work safe and may God continue to bless all of our efforts as we take care of the water needs for our customers. I will end with a challenge to you all… make it home for supper with the family at least once a week.

P.S. I took a phone call from Mike Doering in the middle of writing this letter. He needed advice on how a T-L pivot point turns towards the bottom without taking it all apart. It seems we have to hold his hand on a least half of the jobs he does!! LOL

Casey Christensen
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Executive Director’s Notes

by Lee Orton

Congratulations and Thanks to all who made the 2024 Convention and Trade Show another very successful event. Record attendance, support from our many past exhibitors and new ones to add to the event, new and great program presenters and the use of the outstanding convention and meeting facilities available to us in Kearney continue to make new records to honor our organizations.

Thanks to the Association leadership to make this activity available. We are scheduled to continue in Kearney for the next several years and probably beyond that as we get the great commitment from our Kearney and Yusses hosts.

Thanks too to the Association staff and other volunteer supporters who make the event look seamless and successful. Keep it going!

As usual the Association staff and our meeting planners are already beginning to work on the 2025 events and beyond. We are already working to bring more opportunities to our supporting attendance. If you have suggestions for exhibitors who we have not seen and presentations which you would like to see please share them with us.

You can already put the 2025 event on your calendar. List the convention in Kearney for February 11-12-13, 2025! We will plan to see all our members, friends and allies.

In the meantime, you might consider registering for our fantastic Baroid Mud School set for Grand Island on June 12-13-14 at the Husker Harvest lands. This in-depth training is second to none and should be of interest and professionally rewarding. Space is limited.

You can also find time to relax and enjoy a day or two with your other water well professionals at the Association Summer Picnic, fishing retreat and fish fry in Hartington on July 26-27. Hosted by Association President Casey Christensen, Casey and his family and partners would welcome all to join us in Northeast Nebraska.

Have a good and productive summer and fall. See you going forward!
The Nebraska Well Drillers Association is excited to announce

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The Nebraska Well Drillers Association is excited to have Baroid Representatives coming to Nebraska to put on one of their internationally recognized Mud Schools. They will join Downey Drilling, Roberts Pump and Supply, and the Central Platte NRD. The class and the drilling will all take place at the site where Husker Harvest Days will be held later this year.

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Check out our Nebraska Well Drillers Association web page at http://www.nebraskawelldrillers.org/ for all the latest information relating to the Annual Convention and other upcoming Association sponsored events.

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Chapter 3: EARLY DRILLING RIGS

In the early 1800’s there was a few dozen who had what is called “deepwater” drilling rigs. These were rigs which were designed and built by a well-salad manufacturer in old Texas using wells. Very few of these rigs drilled more than 12-inch holes. But, at least they were better than sand suctioning a casing down through a small water hole and a trap in the water. Conrad American

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