



Historical picture of the old roundhouse turntable of the CBQ Railroad (photo courtesy Alliance Chamber of Commerce)

1980 at 9,869 due to the activities of the Burlington Northern Railroad. The town has remained at about 9,000 population.

Although the railroad was its primary reason for existence, the importance of agriculture and ranching cannot be ignored. The Homestead Act of 1862 provided 160 acres of free land to homesteaders who could "prove up" their claim after five years. An additional 160 acres could be acquired as a "tree claim" as the Congress attempted to forest the Plains. In 1904 Moses P. Kinkaid of Nebraska sponsored a bill changing the number of acres in the semi-arid regions to 640 acres per homesteader. With that bill, farming came to western Nebraska. Popular crops included potatoes and wheat. Dairy farming in this area was very popular and the Alliance Creamery was established to process cream and butter.

Ranching was equally important to Alliance. The Nebraska Stock Growers Association, founded in Alliance in 1889, was to protect stockmen from illegal rustling. The Alliance Livestock Commission Company bought and sold market cattle locally until December 1976.

Alliance was the first town in

Nebraska to adopt the city manager form of government. Initiating this innovative system in 1921, it is still in use today.

Downtown Alliance is an old town, where many beautiful brick buildings carry the names of past owners and early-1900 dates. Older homes with elegant designs, from Sweetwater to Cheyenne Avenues and 1st to 8th Streets, bespeak of gracious living and citizens with much community pride. Alliance has survived the drought and grasshoppers, business booms and busts, and many social changes. The town's history is at times comical, joyous, and tragic. But throughout the years, the steadfast character of the true pioneer comes through. The stories of the strength, integrity, and love for Alliance carries on!

By Deb Dopheide, Alliance, NE 69301

**ARAPAHOE**

Arapahoe is located in the heart of the beautiful Republican River Valley and sits directly at the intersection of Highway 6/34 and 283 in southwest Nebraska in Furnas County.

Arapahoe with a population of 1,028 is a rural, ag related community that prides itself on

a strong and thriving business district. Arapahoe prides itself on leading the area with locally-owned, state of the art, telephone, high speed internet and cable television services. Some of the other businesses include financial institutions, law office, grocery, clothing, appliance and hardware stores. A pharmacy, car and implement dealerships, floral shop, auto parts, insurance agencies, real estate, barber and beauty shops as well as a weekly newspaper.

Arapahoe also has several restaurants and motels to choose from. Arapahoe has rest home, assisted living, and retirement facilities as well as low-cost housing. As a community of faith, Arapahoe has six churches. Attractions include the recently constructed Veterans Wall monument, Furnas/Gosper Historical Society Museum, Outdoor Classroom, tennis courts, swimming pool, golf course and volunteer run movie theatre. The Arapahoe Chamber of Commerce sponsors several activities throughout the year including the huge, annual 4th of July celebration, Prairie Pioneer Days. There is a car show the first Saturday of August each year accompanied by city-wide garage sales. Other events include the annual children's Easter Egg Hunt, Holiday

Highlights Craft and Gift Show, Children's Halloween Costume parade and many more! Summer activities include softball and baseball, swim team, and motor cross bike racing.

For the outdoorsman, Arapahoe and the surrounding area is known for it's excellent hunting and fishing. Whether you're looking to relocate or just visiting, Arapahoe can provide you with everything you'll need!

For additional information concerning Arapahoe, please contact the Arapahoe Chamber of Commerce at (308) 962-7777. Arapahoe's web site address is www.arapahoe-ne.com

**ARNOLD**

Arnold is nothing if not beautiful. Though small and off the beaten track, it rewards visitors with to-the-horizon views of dramatic landscapes and fantastic light effects. Visitors say, "I never dreamed Nebraska was this beautiful," "Why have I never heard of this before," or "This is more like Colorado than Colorado." Newcomers can't stop pinching themselves over "all this beauty at a fraction of the prices found on either of the coasts or in neighboring Colorado." Anywhere we look, a postcard-quality picture greets our eyes. And it doesn't cost a dime.



(Photo courtesy Arapahoe Chamber of Commerce)

**Arnold Economic Development Corporation**

Welcome to Arnold, Nebraska. To find out about one of our popular events or for other information, visit [www.arnoldne.org](http://www.arnoldne.org) or call **(308) 848-2211**

**Arapahoe Chamber of Commerce**  
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