

Notes from Meadowlark Gallery

By Shari Friedel

PCAAC Member

The public is invited to Meadowlark Gallery to take in Perkins County Area Arts Council's new show, "The Madrid Collection," 36 vintage photos from the early days of the town.

Shared by Dr. Allen Shepherd, former history professor at Chadron State College, the photos are presented in conjunction with Perkins County's 125th anniversary celebration taking place this summer and during the county fair held at the end of this month.

Dr. Shepherd grew up in Madrid and graduated from Madrid High in 1957. His father Harold was postmaster, his mother LaDeen, a schoolteacher.

"I am a product of small-town America and of a way of life that is fast disappearing as our society urbanizes and changes its demographics," said Shepherd, who spent the majority of his career teaching at Chadron State College. He retired in 2009.

His wife, Sara, who he met while attending college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was a refugee of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

Their children Phil and Lydia reside in Omaha and Ohio, respectively.

Along with an interest in history, Dr. Shepherd has a passion for photography, especially as it relates to history. This merging of interests led Shepherd to write, "Madrid: A Centennial History."

The collection of photos for the book were restored by Mary Farrar of Chadron, a professional photographic restorer. The result is the enlarged, framed, matted and sepia-toned treasures Shepherd is sharing.

Open House

An open house will be held at the gallery on Grant's main street on Sunday, July 8, when Dr. Shepherd will be available to answer questions and meet the public.

Enjoy refreshments with arts council members and other patrons of the arts and visit our county's past in the photographic history.

Next Month

The arts council welcomes the Ash Hollow Art Club, whose members will present an "artist's show."

Visit Meadowlark Gallery on Friday and Saturday evenings from 6-8 p.m.