

## Sterling Lions Club Pioneer Award

### Rachel Schuppe's family farmed in Proctor

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Lions Club member Andy Long presents Rachel Schuppe with the Logan County Pioneer Award during the Cowboy Breakfast this morning. (Callie Jones/Journal-Advocate)

**STERLING** — The second of two Pioneer Family Awards was presented to Rachel Schuppe of Iliff at the Cowboy Breakfast this morning.

Rachel, who is now 92, was born in 1918 and was the seventh of 10 children, four boys and six girls. Her parents were Jacob and Katherine Lebsack, Germans from Russia. They were married in 1903 and came to America in 1912 with four children. The family landed at Ellis Island, then traveled to Lincoln, Neb., and on to Hastings, Neb., where they spent five years. In 1917, the family moved to a farm near Proctor. Rachel's father worked for Hamils. A couple of years later, in 1922, the family purchased a farm and built a new home. They raised sugar beets, barley, oats, potatoes, beans and corn on their 320 acre farm.

Growing up, Rachel attended the one room McGinley School, which was one mile from her home. The school had one teacher and eight grades. When it was cold in the winter, her dad would take the children to school in a box wagon pulled by a team of horses. The rest of the time they walked.

After Rachel finished the eighth grade, she stayed home to work on the farm. All of the children worked on the farm. When she was 5 years old she trimmed beets. Her farm work growing up also included milking cows. Rachel, three of her siblings and her father were in charge of milking 24 cows by hand every day. They would separate the milk and take the cream to Proctor three times a week to ship by train to Sterling. Each spring they would buy 300 white rock chicks to raise and eat. They also kept some for layers and sold the eggs to the Proctor Grocery Store for 10 cents a dozen. Money from the cream and egg sales was used to purchase groceries.

In addition to the cows and chickens, they also fed pigs and each year they would buy lambs, shipped by them to Proctor and herd them home. When they sold the lambs, they were shipped by train to Chicago and Rachel's dad would ride along in the caboose.

They also had a big garden at home and would can fruits and vegetables. When Rachel was younger, she would go with the older children to dances in Iliff. That was where she met Albert Schuppe, who was from Sterling. They were married in 1940.

Rachel and Albert worked on the farm. When her parents retired and moved to Greeley in 1945, she and Albert moved into the original farm home, where she still lives today.

From 1968 to 1982, she worked at her brother's Lebsack Feed and Seed Store in Sterling. Rachel and Albert were married for 62 years before he passed away in 2002. They had three children, Gordon, Marla and Janie. All were members of the Proctor Peppers 4-H Club.

Gordon and his wife Earlene now farm the home place, Marla and her husband Jesse Earl are from Akron and Janie Miller is from Fort Collins.

In addition to her children, Rachel has six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

She has spent many hours at the Logan County Fair watching her son, Gordon, and grandson, Mike, show steers and heifers.

Rachel was a member of the Homemakers Extension Club for many years and enjoys gardening, sewing, quilting, crossword puzzles and beautiful flowers.

"To be here today as a pioneer means a great deal to me," she said upon accepting the award.

*(Copy edited to correct spelling of Lebsack)*