

# Buffalo Tales

November/December 2016

## ***Miller & Associates, Growing with our Clients for 40 Years***

**by Brenda S. Jensen**

Mr. Reed Miller, P.E., had one goal in mind when he founded Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers, P.C. (M&A) in 1976, and that was to provide clients with quality, dependable service from an experienced, professional staff. The firm has grown steadily over the past 40 years to include more than 70 employees working in Engineering, Surveying, Architecture, Planning, and Grant Writing. The relationship between the company and its clients is one of the most important aspects of how business is conducted at Miller & Associates. This focus on the clients and the service they provide has allowed Miller & Associates to become a well-established firm celebrating 40 years.



**Miller & Associates**  
**CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C.**

### Internal Growth:

Miller & Associates began with a staff of three employees in 1976, and over the years has grown to more than 70 dedicated employees. In 2016, Miller & Associates added 10 new team

members. The company's headquarters is located in Kearney, Nebraska and has branch locations in McCook, Holdrege and Grand Island, Nebraska as well as a location in Colby, Kansas. With 40 years in the civil engineering industry, Mr. Miller still serves as the President and CEO of Miller & Associates. However, today he works alongside his son and daughter who are both Civil and Environmental Engineers for Miller & Associates. The family business atmosphere extends beyond the two generations working alongside one another. Many of the team members have worked at M&A for 10-plus years. This team-oriented environment has created a positive culture and instilled an ability to persevere and grow, not only as employees but for M&A's clients.

While projects in the bigger cities do comprise some of the workload performed at Miller & Associates, the bulk of M&A projects take place in smaller, rural communities in central and western Nebraska and northern Kansas. It is paramount for a company like Miller & Associates to go beyond typical service; developing relationships allows M&A's team members to provide personalized service meeting the needs of the clients. The opportunity to help clients grow and develop is an ever-changing process, and in order to meet the needs of their clients Miller & Associates has evolved providing a full-service approach to every project they complete. Over the years, Miller & Associates has added disciplines such as Architecture, Community Planning,

Surveying, Grant Writing and Administration, which allow the company to better serve their clients. Some of the growth has been accomplished by strategically incorporating existing firms into the company, with other growth attributed to maintaining a focus on clients, which has led to referrals.

The combination of a client-centric mentality and qualified team members providing a variety of expertise has allowed Miller & Associates to become the benchmark of full-service firms in the region. They provide clients with innovative and cost-

effective engineering and consulting solutions while maintaining the highest level of professional integrity and service. M&A prides themselves on offering the services, experiences, and responsiveness required to meet the needs of their clients; this level of service has led to more than 95% of past clients to select M&A on subsequent jobs.

As M&A has grown, so has their ability to complete innovative work. Recently, their team of engineers completed design and construction engineering services for Kearney's UV Water Treatment System at the Platte River Wellfield. The facility, which is the first system of its kind in the State of Nebraska, treats Kearney's drinking water.

This business model of performing quality and progressive work combined with building long lasting relationships with clients has put Miller & Associates in a great position to continue its growth well into the future. This growth has put the Company in a great position to assist

a wide array of clientele to facilitate growth and development in their communities.

**Helping Clients Grow:**

Most projects are multi-faceted and require assistance with project set-up, funding, design, project administration, and construction observation. In order to ensure clients are best served, M&A's staff is experienced to help at every stage from project development through project completion. The staff at Miller &



**Coffee and Company Photo = Kearney Office Employees during 40<sup>th</sup> Year Coffee & Company Chamber Event**  
(Property of Miller & Associates, used with permission)

Associates is comprised of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, Geologists, GIS/CAD Specialists, Planners, Grant Writing Specialists, Project Management Staff, and Administrative Personnel who work together to make their client's goals become a reality. Miller & Associates works with a wide range of clientele ranging from small Villages to larger Cities, Counties and private clientele.

The type of projects M&A completes ranges from water and sanitary sewer improvements to designing new libraries and swimming pools.

Many projects are not visibly seen by the public and therefore go unnoticed; however, without the infrastructure and "below-the-surface" projects, communities would not be able to grow and provide a good quality of life for their residents. Other projects more visible to the community include Downtown Revitalization Plans, community centers, and hike/bike trails. Seen or unseen the goal of Miller &

Associates is to maintain the same quality of work and level of professionalism by working with key stakeholders to ensure each job is individualized and accomplishes the desired goals of the community being served.

Through their full-service approach, Miller & Associates helps the City of Kearney physically and economically grow by designing infrastructure extensions for new subdivisions, completing site development and architectural designs for many municipal and private development projects, and master planning for feasible growth opportunities for the future of the Kearney community as well as the 120-plus communities and organizations served across the State of Nebraska and Kansas. Miller & Associates has completed many exciting projects that have helped the City of Kearney grow and develop into the top-notch community



**2nd Ave Pedestrian Bridge, Kearney, NE**  
(Property of Miller & Associates, used with permission)

that it is today. For example, since 1983 there have been 268 paving and drainage projects, 143 water/wastewater projects, and numerous other types of projects completed in Kearney alone by M&A's team.

In the past few years, M&A's team of professionals completed civil site design for the new Kearney High School, Hy-Vee, Younes Developments, Spruce Hollow Subdivision, Central Nebraska Veterans Home, The Buckle Distribution Center, The Buckle Headquarters, Kearney Regional Medical Center, and the UNK Health Science Education Complex.

As a full-service firm, Miller & Associates is able to help different types of clients with a wide variety of services. Of course, all of the expertise areas do not work independently of each other, in fact, at M&A they work together in a seamless and collaborative manner to provide a comprehensive and innovative product for clients.

The role of firms like Miller & Associates is to take the community's vision and formulate a plan to bring the vision into reality in an innovative, timely and cost effective manner. M&A, a locally-owned, small business, is vital to the well-being of the rural areas of Nebraska and Kansas. The company provides quality products and services to communities, as well as jobs for families who live in the areas. Miller & Associates certainly does this in the five-office locations, but additionally the firm has the luxury of helping other communities grow and develop in a variety of ways to help maintain the way of life unique to the clients being served. Miller & Associates takes great pride in being able to foster and support this way of life for the communities and ultimately the families that call them home.



**Water Tower Construction— Ravenna, NE**  
(Property of Miller & Associates, used with permission)

## 2016 Calendar of Events

**Dec. 3-4 and Dec. 10-11 from 1-5 pm:** Open to the public: **29th Annual Christmas Tree Walk** -check out dozens of trees decorated by area not-for-profits that tie their mission into this year's theme, Christmas Cinema. \*\*\*All of November: Decorating (during regular business hours plus open late on Thursday, Nov. 3 for decorating)\*\*\* **Saturday, December 3 from 12-1pm: Members Only Preview of the 29th Annual Christmas Tree Walk\*\*\***

### Education notes (see website for additional details):

\*Listen to **Mardi Anderson on KGFW 1340 AM** at 9 am on the last Friday of each month for fabulous stories about Buffalo County!

\*The **Archive Department** will be open on Mondays from 1:00-4 year-round or by appointment.

\***Fabulous Fridays** are held on the 2nd Friday monthly at 2 pm. Check the website for locations.

**November:** Kearney Goes to War, 1941

**December:** Christmas Traditions

Volunteers, chairpersons, and sponsors are still needed. Please contact the office for more information on supporting your Buffalo County Historical Society!

PO Box 523, 710 W. 11th St., Kearney, NE 68848  
(308) 234-3041 www.bchs.us bchs.us@hotmail.com

We hope you enjoy these stories about Buffalo County. We would love to have a stock pile of Buffalo Tales ready so they can go out in a more timely manner. Please submit your memories and stories to us by e-mailing them to bchs.buffalotales@hotmail.com or sending them to the post office box: BCHS, PO Box 523, Kearney, NE 68848.

### **We appreciate your support!**

#### Director's Report

- The Archive Volunteers continue to work on transcribing onto the computer the marriage files that were earlier put on cards by the Ft. Kearny Genealogical Society many years ago.
- Julie Booker called and is offering BCHS to walk through the old Kearney High School to see if we want anything. The Building Committee and the Collections Committee both have some interest in this.
- Roger lined up two students to come in and help us decorate and Pat came down, as well, to help Lexi decorate the grounds for Christmas. I am grateful to all of the volunteers!
- Senior College wrapped up here after six weeks and everyone that attended had a great time. Elaine Batenhorst was instrumental in getting them here and she did all of the work to prepare for the classes. I believe she even lined up a few new volunteers for us.
- Taylor has been working hard on organizing the Christmas Walk and some locations are already decorated. Kelly is stepping up to handle the refreshment table prep.

**Be our friend on Facebook: "BuffaloCounty HistoricalSociety"**

### BCHS Gold Engineers

- |   |                          |   |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Harriet (Hasbrouck) Ames                | Carl & Louise Gangwish   | Midlands Contracting, Inc.                          |
| Aram Family Foundation                  | Lance & Chris Hehner     | Wayne Olson   |
| Barney Financial Service/ Ron Eckloff   | Clark H. Hehner, MD      | Corene & Errol Phillips                             |
| Brad & Kay Bowman                       | Jerry & Tammi Hellman    | Phillips Insurance Agency—<br>Scott & Lisa Phillips |
| Cash-Wa Distributing                    | Tom & Mary Henning       | Dale & Janet Pohlmann                               |
| Jerome & Jeanette Eckhout               | Fred & Betty Kempf       | Steinbrink Landscaping                              |
| Exchange Bank                           | Chandler & Susan Lynch   | David Weir, MD                                      |
| Ft. Theatre Dentistry/Dr. Walter Martin | Jerry & Edith Marlatt    |   |
|   | Janice & Bill Martin     |   |
|   | Janice & Duncan McGregor |   |



### BCHS Silver Engineers

- |                             |  |   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Ace Irrigation and Mfg. Co  | Mark Hadenfeldt                          | Eric & Debbie Rosenlof                            |
| Arby's & Motel 6 of Kearney | Galen & Marilyn Hadley                   | S&B Heating and Air Conditioning/Brian Gutchewski |
| Pam Artman                  | Mary Haeberle                            | Dr. Charles & Vickie Schaepler                    |
| George & Roxanne Bascom     | Heartland Bank                           | Steve & Joan Sheen                                |
| Elaine & Michael Batenhorst | Cris & Heidi Hehner                      | Scott & Lori Smith                                |
| June & Steele Becker        | Robert Heyd                              | Dan & Julie Speirs                                |
| Jim & Marlene Berglund      | Richard & Kathie Hranac                  | Douglas & Emily State                             |
| Vicki Bissell               | Robert & Betty Hunt                      | Stubblefield, Inc./Lenore Stubblefield            |
| Lean Brandt                 | Judy Johnson                             | Valley Pharmacy                                   |
| Wayne & Barb Brugger        | Sharon & Gary Mason                      | Phil & Carlene Waldron                            |
| John Cochran                | Nelson's Furniture                       | David H. Weir, MD                                 |
| Roger & Cecelia Davis       | O'Brien-Straatmann-Redinger-Funeral Home | Joe & Jean Widdowson                              |
| Dora Day                    | Tony & Dawna Ourada                      | Janice Wiebusch & Jack McSweeney                  |
| Jan Eickmeier               | Jane K. Randall                          |   |
| Jim & Marsha Fairbanks      | John & Vicki Richman                     |   |
| Thomas R. Gallagher         | Kimbera & Ronny Roberts                  |   |
| Dean & Lana Gosch           | Jan & Keith Rodehorst                    |   |
| John & Mary Haase           |  |   |

### A Huge Thanks to our Silver and Gold Engineers for their support of the BCBS/Trails & Rails Museum

(Contact Trails & Rails Museum for more information on becoming an Engineer)

BUFFALO TALES is the official publication of the Buffalo County Historical Society, a non-profit organization, whose address is P.O. Box 523, Kearney, NE 68848-0523. Phone: 308 234 3041 Email bchs.us@hotmail.com

Katherine Wielechowski, Editor

2016 Annual dues, payable January 1, are:

Student .....	\$10.00
Individual .....	\$35.00
Family .....	\$40.00
Institutional Membership .....	\$50.00
Supporting Membership .....	\$75.00

Directors

Term expiring June 1, 2017 Kelly Kner, Mary Beth Lowe, Mike Peak, Dr. Jinny Turman

Term expiring June 1, 2018 Pam Artman, Pat Neff, Corene Phillips, Robin Smith

Term expiring June 1, 2019 Dr. Roger Davis, Lance Hehner, Dale Pohlmann

Officers (1 year term)

President .....	Lance Hehner
Vice-President .....	Dr. Roger Davis
Secretary .....	Corene Phillips
Treasurer .....	Mary Beth Lowe



**Trails & Rails Museum**

**Buffalo County Historical Society**

**710 West 11th St. P.O. Box 523**

**Kearney, NE 68848-0523**

Visit us at

[www.bchs.us](http://www.bchs.us)

**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Kearney, NE

Permit No. 7