

THE WEST OC BULLETIN

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MIDWEST roots run deep

Transplants gather for 100th
annual Boone Iowa Society of
Southern California luncheon.
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Society President Larry Moore interviews Jim Ash, who travels from Lake Isabella every year.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BOONE IOWA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIF. Moore awards Don Swenson the Corn Head for traveling the longest distance to the luncheon.



The custom-made Boone, Iowa, blanket door prize goes to Lynn Olson. Randy Davis holds it up for her.

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The Knott's Berry Farm Hotel baked a special cake for the Boone Iowa Society of Southern California luncheon, the society's last gathering. It is disbanding after 100 years.



Sisters Lavonne Shearer of Boone and Roxanne Aplanalp of Utah attend their first society luncheon.



Frances Dyer won a painting as part of the door prize drawings that were a highlight of the society's final meeting.

A CENTURY OF BOONE MEMORIES

BY JERRY MANRIQUEZ
GUEST COLUMNIST

The annual Boone Iowa Society of Southern California luncheon once again brought together friends, families and generations to share memories of their beloved hometown - Boone, Iowa.

Sixty three people attended the Feb. 1 luncheon at the Knott's Berry Farm Hotel to celebrate two significant milestones - this year marked 100th and final meeting of the society.

Over the years 300, 400,

even 500 people attended the luncheons each year.

It all started in 1914, when six former Boone residents got together for a luncheon in Pasadena at Ella DeTar Wanty's home.

While they left their homes near cornfields just north of Des Moines for homes near orange groves in California, their hearts remained in the Midwest.

Mayme Clapp Howeth attended that first luncheon, and with the help of Charles M. Campbell, she organized the Boone Socie-

ty in 1915.

Iowa residents have long been attracted to sunny Southern California. Many of the society's current members were soldiers and sailors stationed in or traveling through California and then returned after the service to make California their home.

This year members traveled from all over Southern California - including Riverside, Bakersfield and Lake Isabella - to see old friends.

Roxanne Aplanalp and

Lavonne Shearer traveled farther. Aplanalp lives in Utah, while Shearer came all the way from Boone. It was the first time the sisters attended the luncheon.

Between time spent sharing memories, they sang the Iowa Corn Song and the Boone High School fight song.

Although the Boone Iowa Society of Southern California is disbanding, former Iowa residents still will be able to gather once a year at the Iowa Picnic by the Sea. The picnic takes

place the second week of August each year in Long Beach.

Representatives of the Iowa Picnic by the Sea, including Don Swenson, were invited to the Boone Iowa Society lunch as the society voted to pass on its mailing lists and other information to the Iowa Picnic by the Sea committee.

- *Jerry Manriquez is the vice president and secretary of the Boone Iowa Society of Southern California. Manriquez grew up in Boone. He now lives in Norco.*

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