

Loup County and the Village of Taylor, celebrate their nostalgic history by showcasing a unique population of plywood figures known as Taylor "Villagers." These life-size wooden people can be found throughout the community as imaginative "windows" into years gone by. Taylor "Villagers" are said to "Capture the spirit of the past," as they reflect the early 1900s in black & white. It was a time when the way of life was changing rapidly with the advance of the automobile and electricity. The "Villagers" commemorate historic buildings, people, occupations, transportation, pastimes, as well as welcoming you at the Loup County entrances and businesses. Over the years new pieces have been added, so a current listing and map can be found at the Visitor Information Center on Highway 183 or by visiting the Taylor, Nebraska website at www.taylorne.com.

HISTORICAL BUILDINGS



The Village of Taylor is known for several of its unique historic buildings. The Pavillion Hotel and the old Farmers Filling Station, are two prominent historical buildings along Highway 183.

The Pavillion Hotel was erected in 1887 by lawyer and entrepreneur Herman Carter in anticipation of the railroad's arrival in Taylor. It offered lodging and food to travelers like these "Villagers" for many years and was said to be the "finest hostelry" in the area.

The old Farmers Filling Station was ran by J.P. Christensen from 1926 - 1945. Many farmers exchanged news and told stories like Taylor "Villagers" Ralph and Hank (from the front cover) can be seen doing today. The Taylor Area Builders acquired the building in 2003 and began renovation. The station is known today as the Visitor Information Center.

MUSEUM



The Pioneer Log Cabin Museum was built in memory of Loup County's pioneers in the early 1940s. Trees were cut down in preparation for building, and the logs were donated by local families. The property also includes the library museum, built around 1883, and is the oldest structure on the Village Square. The one room country school, known as Sunnyside, was built around 1914 and moved to the present site and renovated in 2002. To view the museum call 308-942-6237.

HISTORIC PEOPLE

Loup County Sheriff George Brock was shot and fatally wounded on October 16, 1940, while attempting to serve a warrant on Valleyview residents, John and Willard Birke. The Birkes had thwarted past attempts by Sheriff Brock to be served with papers at their fortified Sandhills ranch in northeast Loup County.



On the fatal morning, John Birke was at the Valleyview Store with nephew, Richard, where Selective Service Registration was taking place. The Sheriff attempted to arrest John Birke, a battle ensued and the Sheriff was shot. Attempts were made by others to stop the Birkes from fleeing but they drove off, bleeding and wounded. Sheriff Brock was taken to the Burwell hospital but his condition was critical and he later died from the gunshot wound.

A posse was organized by the Custer County Sheriff, assisted by Loup County resident Ted Goos and his airplane. The Birkes were apprehended. They later stood trial and were convicted of the murder of Sheriff George Brock.

PASTIMES



Opportunities for enjoyment included playing checkers, baseball, fishing, hopscotch, rolling hoops, skipping rope, tops and marbles or a chance to run through the fields looking for wild flowers, birds' nests, or animal tracks - the relaxing recreations of a simpler time before electricity, transportation, and technology changed social and leisure activities.

TRANSPORTATION



Loup County's mode of transportation changed drastically between 1905 and 1920. Couples like 'Fred & Eva' were not seen as often traveling in their horse and buggy.

OCCUPATIONS

"The Lamplighter" depicts an occupation that faded into extinction as the country started into the 1920s. Other common occupations that were lost as times changed were the ice man, telephone operator, dressmaker, butter maker, stone mason, and blacksmith.

