

In 1998, Pam started working for Ron Colling at the Manning Monitor. At first she traveled around the area to sell ads as far away as Des Moines and Omaha, and also the nearby towns. After a while this proved to be impractical from a business standpoint, because the revenue from ads was less than the traveling expenses, so Pam started using the phone to contact businesses and sell ads.

At this time Linda Jensen (Mrs. Don) was working full-time as bookkeeper and entered the finances on the computer. When Linda changed employment, Pam took over this job, and also continued her work in the pressroom where she helped with proof reading, layouts, waxing, and many other aspects of the newspaper business.

Also at this time Lois (Oakley) Ramsey and Pam (Bellows) Jensen, local girls who graduated from Manning High School, were doing the press and job work on computer software. When Pam Jensen retired, then Tina Steffes was hired to fill this position.

Lois retired in 2011 and Pam Colling added this position to her workload. Because of continuing changes and challenges in the news industry, and with the addition of computer software, fewer employees were required so downsizing through attrition continued at the Monitor.

When the transition to InDesign was made, at first, Pam, Lois, and Ron would work late into the night (midnight) learning the program and adjusting to a complete digital process; no longer using layout sheets, waxing and other aspects they had been using.

Frustration almost came to a “boiling point” but slowly and surely they adapted to the digital change to where now they can layout the paper in 1 1/2 days. Before using InDesign it took four employees at least 3 days a week to do the same amount of work...plus someone had to physically take the 8 pages of waxed layout sheets to Harlan the day before printing where they were transferred to negative plates.

Currently, Pam does the typing and concentrates on pages 2 and 4, while Tina designs the ads and lays out the rest of the pages.

Some of the major changes Pam has seen since she first started working at the Monitor are the number and types of competing media: channel 10 on cable vision in Manning, the Internet, and also the way young people communicate using Facebook, Twitter, and cellphones, all of which compete for the ever-shrinking advertising dollar and the sped-up attention span of everyone in today's society.

Current Monitor employees



Tina and Eddie Steffes - wedding day

Tina was born in Carroll and has an older brother, Brian Schnetter. Senior Airman Schnetter works for the 132nd ISRG (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance Group). He is an ISS (Information Security Specialist) and lives in Des Moines. Tina has one niece, Michaela, who is a junior at Fort Dodge High School.

Tina's parents are Karen and the late Dennis Schnetter. Dennis passed away when Tina was 20 months old. Karen then married Ben Huhn and they live in Coon Rapids.

Tina grew up about 13 miles south of Coon Rapids. She attended Guthrie Center schools (K through 12) and graduated in 1998.

Tina worked on the high school newspaper staff during her Senior year. The school paper “Black & Gold” was published on a weekly basis in the Guthrie Center Times newspaper. The students were assigned a story which included interviewing the student, taking pictures, and writing the story. The teacher would grade the story and critique it before it was published in the newspaper.

During her senior year, Tina wrote a lengthy story about “Senioritis” as part of her semester test score and it received rave reviews.

"Senioritis" invades high school

The end of the school year is a time when many students feel a sense of loss. Senioritis is a real phenomenon that affects many high school seniors. It is a condition characterized by a lack of interest in school, a decrease in academic performance, and a general feeling of apathy. Senioritis is often caused by a combination of factors, including the stress of the upcoming year, the desire to spend more time with friends, and the anticipation of graduation. It is important for students to recognize the signs of senioritis and take steps to overcome it, such as staying organized, maintaining a positive attitude, and seeking support from teachers and friends.

Above: Senioritis article

To the right: One of Tina's High School Senior interviews that was featured in the Guthrie newspaper.

Besides the school paper, Tina also worked on the school yearbook.

While in high school, Tina was interested in background television and working behind the scenes. After she graduated, Tina took some Journalism and mass communication classes at Fort Dodge.

In 2000, Tina started working for Charlie Nixon at the Coon Rapids Enterprise, joining employee Doris Bass who worked on ads and billing. Doris was later replaced by Tia Hilgenberg, and when Tia left, then Tina started making ads the last year she was with the Enterprise. Tina's duties had also expanded to waxing layout sheets and then she would take them to Guthrie Center to be printed. At first Tina worked with PageMaker software on MAC computers and then in 2004 they switched to InDesign to layout the paper.

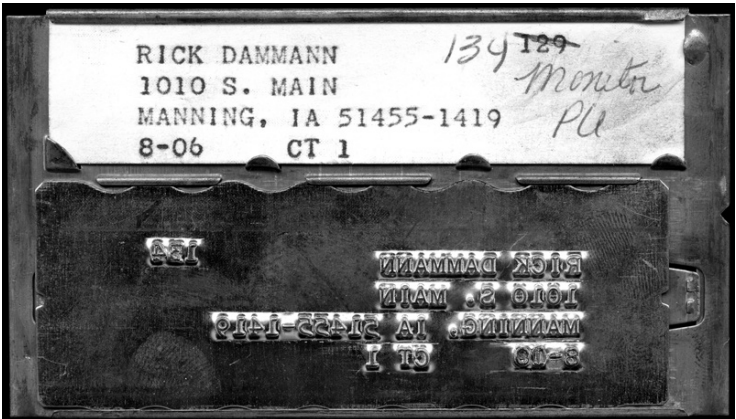
After moving to Manning but still working in Coon Rapids, Tina would pick up the Rocket papers (for the Enterprise) that Ron Colling would bring to Manning from Harlan on Wednesday morning newspaper day.



Manning Monitor

Tina met Eddie Steffes in 2000 and they were married at the United Methodist Church in Manning. They have lived in Manning for 14 years. Eddie grew up in Gray and his parents are Vickie (Musfeldt) Steffes and the late Earl Steffes. Vickie graduated from Manning High School in 1971. Eddie's maternal grandparents were Alvin & Clara Musfeldt; Alvin graduated from Manning High School in 1939.

Ohde Funeral Home



Above: address plate (reversed address at bottom) created on the Graphotype machine and used in the Addressograph to print labels.

To the left: Graphotype

In mid-2009 Pam Jensen was planning to retire and mentioned this to Tina. Tina then visited with Pam & Ron Colling and she was hired.

About this same time Tina had started a dog grooming business that she operated from her home.

In November of 2009 Tina began working for Ron and Pam at the Monitor. One of the first things Tina was shown at the Monitor was the Addressograph machine that made address labels. This was a foot triggered labeling machine and due to ever increasing repairs they switched to a computer labeling program and the “foot machine” was retired.

Since Tina had been using InDesign at Coon Rapids, she was very familiar with this program and helped with the transition at the Monitor. One new addition they made was the purchase of Photo Shop Elements which is a graphics program.

Tina also works part time for Dahn & Woodhouse in Manning and Coon Rapids. She has been with them since April 2009 and assists with visitations and funeral services.



Amos Kusel, Alvin Musfeldt (Eddie's grandfather), George Opperman, Merlin Musfeldt and Bill Campbell High School Vocational Agriculture and FFA instructor and 4-H leader (1938 - photo taken in the Ag classroom in the basement of the gym). This Manning High School team competed at the National 4-H club congress in Chicago, Illinois, the interstate competitive event, and Iowa's livestock judging at the national Future Farmers' competition in Kansas City, Missouri.

Current Monitor employees



Brian, Ashley, Eric, Kathy

Brian Lage is the son of Walter and Ardith (David) Lage. He has one brother, Lance, who graduated from Manning in 1970. Brian married Kathy Conroy, from Jefferson, who started teaching at Manning in 1982. She currently teaches Middle School English for IKM-Manning, in Manning.

Brian and Kathy have two children: Ashley and Eric. Ashley graduated from IKM-Manning in 2011. She is currently working for a marketing company in Okoboji, after graduating from Buena Vista College in 2014. Eric, a Junior at IKM-Manning, is a special needs student who is loved by all. Eric looks forward to rides in the family vehicle, especially with his dad who you can see driving around the area on a daily basis.

Brian graduated from Manning High School in 1975. He participated in golf, baseball, and band, and lettered two years in both sports programs. He was a member of the first varsity golf team in 1974. In 1975, the team placed 2nd in the Midwest Conference Golf Meet. Brian was a pitcher on the baseball team and helped the 1974 team achieve one of the best records at 11-8. He is the all-time career leader in saves. Brian was also active on the basketball team by keeping statistics and the scorebook.

In 1988, Brian volunteered as the official scorekeeper for the high school boys' and girls' basketball games and continues that job today. He also takes care of the football stat book which he started back in the early 1990s; another job he performs today. He also compiles the stats and sends them to newspapers and over the Internet to the High School Unions.

Brian started working at the Manning-Manilla Golf Course in 1975 and has filled many positions over the years. He has been the manager since 1980 and is in charge of golf tournaments, the club house, finances, and many more aspects of the club.

In the fall of 1997, Brian started writing for the sports section of the Manning-Monitor. You can find his articles on page 7, weekly, during the school sports season.

Veterinary Associates

Manning Pharmacy

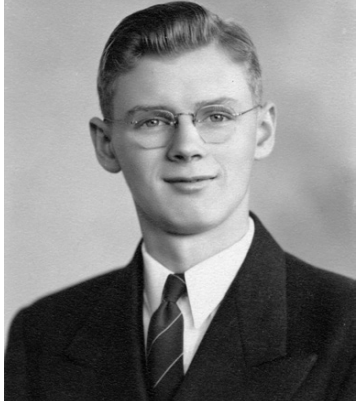
Brian is also interested in preserving Manning's sports history. During the wintertime in the mid-1980s, he started updating the sports records for the high school; starting first with basketball and football. He spent hundreds of hours at the Manning Monitor office reading microfilm and Monitor newspapers and transcribing the stats and records.

At that time Manning High School only had records back to the late 1950s. Brian collected all of the information he could find locally, and then started visiting other newspaper offices in the area. He spent long days during the winter at Carroll, Audubon, Manilla, Denison, Harlan, Glidden, Coon Rapids, Scranton, Woodbine, Ida Grove, and Bayard collecting scoring and game data from those community newspapers.

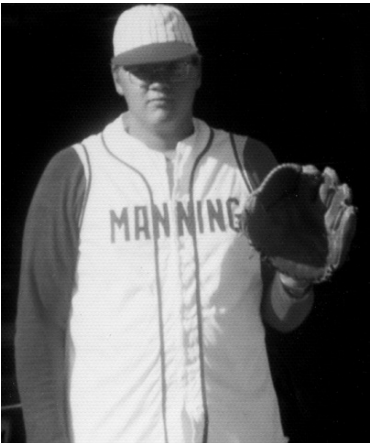
If you have the 2009 Manning School history book you will find Brian's sports stats and records featured for each grade beginning in the early 1900s.



Ardith 1947 Audubon



Walt Manning 1943



Above: Brian high school baseball
Left: Lance - Jr high football



2005 - Virginia Rasmussen and Brian Lage keeping score

If the WALLS could TALK

For the last several weeks you have been reading about the history of the editor/owners of the Manning Monitor, going way back to 1881, and we just now finished with some background of the current employees.

I realize some of the information featured has been lengthy and quite detailed and that some readers may lose interest. In this day of 20 second sound bites I think there should also be room for more detailed information for people to read about.

Unless you work on history you probably won't think about the importance of having an official newspaper in the community. Without the Monitor a lot of our history would have never been recorded or documented, therefore lost forever.

Here are some excerpts from the Manning Monitor microfilm that shows how a lot of that pioneer history actually took place in the Monitor office - IF ONLY THE WALLS COULD TALK - (keep in mind that the location of the Monitor office was in various buildings during the early years of Manning history).

Commissioners Organization. In compliance with the law in such cases made and provided, and in obedience to the above order of the Circuit Court of Carroll county, Iowa, the above named commissioners, appointed to hold an election for the purpose of the incorporation of the Town of Manning, held a meeting at the MONITOR office, in Manning, and organized by the election of S.L. Wilson as president of the board and J.G. Wolf secretary. On motion of A. Young it was voted to hold an election for the incorporation of the Town of Manning, on Friday, the 17th day of February, A.D., 1882, at the office of Wolf & Noodle, in Manning, Iowa.

Politics in Manning???

The First Municipal Election of the town - politics of the time featured in the Manning Monitor, March 2, 1882. *The Strife For Power. Two Nominations Made For Town Officers. "The Makepeace Party Try to Steal a March" and are Set Back by a Mass Convention.*

Immediately upon the settlement of the question of incorporation, the people of Manning began to cast about to see who would serve them best in the capacity of town officials. On the day of the election for incorporation it was very generally agreed that a convention should be held on last Saturday evening to select a ticket, but long before that date a few choice spirits got together in Lawyer Makepeace's office and made up a slate and appointed last Thursday evening to hold a caucus.

It could not be kept a secret, of course, but when the time came those best informed rushed together and in less than ten minutes the nominations were made and the hall was cleared. By diligent inquiry it was learned that one George Washington Makepeace was put at the head of the ticket and a number of very excellent citizens were made to "play second fiddle" to boost him into office.

To say that many if not all of them were ashamed of the position in which they had been placed, is drawing it mild. Nor are they all responsible for being in bad company; but some are, and sought to be put there. The people quietly talked the matter over and on Saturday evening came together to the number of one hundred or more and deliberately set about the formation of a ticket that should command the respect and confidence of the community.

S.L. Wilson called the meeting to order and nominated Seth Smith, chairman, and J.B. Ingledue was chosen secretary.

Continued