

Harlan Drive, which eventually went through several incarnations over the decades before being demolished. # It was during the six years he managed the Ramada Inn, Jones recalled, that vigorous campaigning resulted in Harlan Drive being widened from a regular two-lane road to the state highway dimensions it boasts today. # In 1978, Jones left the hotel industry and signed on with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Omaha where he oversaw Federal Housing Administration loans and their repayment schedules. It was a position that allowed him to work with people to keep them in their homes, even when times grew hard and payments were hard to make. # Promotion came along and he advanced to become chief of both Nebraska and Iowa's HUD operations before spending the final two years of his HUD career in Kansas City as regional director for Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri. # He retired in 2015 and agreed to serve on the board of directors of Sarpy Habitat, where three years later he answered the call to keep things afloat pending appointment of a permanent director. # Jones said he does not envision his tenure extending much beyond the spring, but in the meantime he is happy to bring his long experience in housing matters to the Sarpy chapter. # " It's really rewarding to work with some of the homeowners, to see how you can make an impact, " he said. " I worked with an agency that has lots of impact from a distance, but it was never direct -- a person walking in the door and this is the person you're actually helping, or giving keys to, where you can see the joy in their faces.