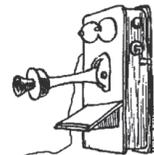


# Peoria Partyline



connecting the extended Peoria community

Volume 7. No. 2

June 2011

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## Peoria Partyline Mailing List

Do you want to be on our mailing list? Will you be moving or have a new address?

Call

Helen De Jong:  
**641-637-4332**

E-mail us with questions or submissions:

[peoria.ia.news@hotmail.com](mailto:peoria.ia.news@hotmail.com)

Online issue: [www.peoriacr.org](http://www.peoriacr.org)

## Warren Family Part of Peoria's Roots

Rev. Dr. James L. Warren was born July 1, 1801 in Green County, Tennessee. He was one of 19 children. His father fought in the American Revolutionary War of 1776. Rev. Dr. Warren married Jane Taylor in 1825 and together they had seven children. The family immigrated to Iowa in 1841, and to Mahaska County in 1843 as early settlers.

Their first child, Elbert, established a small hamlet in 1849 on the Skunk River about 2 miles south of where Peoria is today. He called it Warrensville. There he helped run the family mill and was appointed to be the first postmaster of the small post office in his town. About four years later Peoria was established by Theodrick Spain. Was there some "conflict" about what to call this new town? For a year the post office (that had been moved to Peoria when Warrensville died out) was called Warrensville, but then it was changed to Peoria.

Their second son, Robert, is credited with building the Warren Mill on the Skunk River, just southwest of Peoria, in 1846. It appears that his father, James, assisted in that effort. Robert was known as both a farmer and a miller. It is interesting that the name "Warren" lingered as the first bridge (and subsequent others) built across the Skunk River in this township were called Warren bridges. Another son of the family, James junior, was postmaster during the years the Warrensville post office was moved to Peoria and had its name changed.



Rev. Dr. James Warren—one of the first Methodist preachers to pastor in Mahaska County—was also a doctor who began his practice in 1831. He became a doctor in this area in 1844. It was often said of him that he ministered in both spiritual and temporal things. Malaria and diphtheria were two of the diseases early settlers often suffered from.

In addition, as if he wasn't busy enough already, Rev. Dr. Warren also tried his hand at other things such as construction (helping build the mill) and serving as the Warrensville postmaster from 1851 to 1853. He was a man who was universally loved and respected. He had a wonderful charitable nature that served him well all his life until he died in his home near Peoria, in 1870, at the age of 69. (He is buried in the Peoria cemetery).

Now that we know the story, it seems possible that there may have been a push to call Peoria "Warrensville" at one time. With the important historical roots and pedigree of the Warren family, it would be a logical decision to name a new town after them. Surely such a notable and distinguished family deserved such an honor. Watch for a "never before seen in this area" picture of the Warren mill—with its story—in the next issue.

-James P. Dahm/Marilee VW

## Pastor of Lower Grove Retires

Thirty two years of dedicated service to the Lord and to the congregation of Lower Grove Church, and now it is time for Cornie Van Wyngarden's retirement. His path to preaching began in the 1970's when he and his wife, Erma, were involved with the Navigators. "Lower Grove needed someone to preach," says Cornie, "and they asked me. My stewardship of the church developed from there."



Ordained through the Association of Fundamental Ministers and Churches—so that he would have an official license—his ordination was held at Lower Grove on March 23, 1980. When he began preaching, he received \$25/sermon. The administration of the church has been handled over the years by various elders. Lower Grove celebrated their 100th anniversary the year the Peoria Partyline began (April 2005) and was featured in its first issue.

Cornie and Erma have many special memories of their time at

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## New Timber for Township

Our new neighbors, the Vroehs, (who bought Dennis and Kathy Rozenboom's place) have started making dreams for their acreage come true. The first thing we noticed was busy workers removing old fence line. Then little flags appeared and they seemed to be placed in certain parts of the pasture in a pattern. Our curiosity finally got the best of us and we asked Mike and Jen what was going on. Here's what Mike shared with us.

"When Jen and I bought the property we saw a lot of potential for our cow pasture. It was decided early on that we wanted to plant trees and establish a new timber since our family likes to spend a lot of time outdoors and walk on trails.



For starters we contacted Jen's parents—they did a similar project in the past and worked with the Department of Natural Resources and Kelley Tree Farms. The DNR has a program where you can buy seedling trees at a fraction of the cost of a larger tree—in most cases 100 trees for 50 cents a tree—and that sounded perfect for us. When you are planting as many as we did, the cheaper the better.

Jen's parents also contacted Russell Wildlife and found a tree planter/plow for rent. We rented it for three days and, between their property and ours, planted well over 1000 trees. On our acreage we planted just under 400 trees with variations of Oaks, Dogwoods, Hackberry, and Maple. In 2011 we plan to introduce another 500 trees to the area including more hardwoods and cedar trees so we have some color in the winter.

All of the experts say that planting trees in the fall is a great time to get them established. The average seedling was 18-36" tall and with the tree plow we made quick work of them. The ground hardened around them quickly and we haven't caught too many deer chewing off the tops yet. We are in hopes of a 25-35% growth rate which is around 200 trees that will hopefully mature so that we can enjoy them in the future. The boys and I hope that one day we will be able to harvest turkey and deer right out our back door."

-Mike Vroegh & Marilee VW

## New Babies in the Township



Gerrit James was born to Randall and Nicole Vos on March 7, 2011, weighing 9 lbs. 6 oz. Big sister Greta was excited to welcome him home. She is having fun helping take care of him.

Ben and Krystal Lefevre were blessed with the arrival of Abigail Margaret on April 4, 2011. She weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. and gets lots of hugs from her big sister Lillie now that she is home.

## In Loving Memory



**Henry Bruxvoort** was born in Newton, raised in Sully and near Peoria, and after marrying Nancine settled near to our Township on a small farm. He was a member of the Peoria CR Church and worked for Van Gorps in Pella while he farmed. He and Nancine were blessed with 2 children and grandchildren who were his greatest joy. Henry enjoyed golf, cutting firewood and John Deere tractors. He had a playful attitude which we will all miss!

**Arnold Ozinga** was born near Peoria, attended the local Christian school, and worked as a farm hand until he and his wife Ruth took over the family farm. They were blessed with 4 children. Arnold loved woodworking and being outdoors. He mowed rural cemeteries for a few years. A gentle and kind person, Arnold always took an interest in others and he will be missed.

**Vernon Van Ee** was raised north of Pella on a farm. His mother died at a young age. Vernon attended a country school in this township, worked at the Pella Foundry, and as a hired hand until he joined the Air Corps in WWII. He was part of the Normandy Invasion and received a bronze star. Vernon married Christine (and later Edna) and they had 2 children. He loved farming in this area and was a member of the Peoria church for many years. We will miss you, Vernon!

## Sunday Lunch: Memories From Years Gone By (Part I)

Once upon a time, actually not that long ago, in the 40's and early 50's, the basement of the Peoria CR church provided a space where many families gathered to enjoy their Sunday noon meals packed in picnic baskets. The tradition—established many years before—was there to aid parishioners who chose to stay for lunch. The reasons varied.

Distance from church was certainly a contributing factor. Since the afternoon service began at 1:30 p.m., the trek home and back to church was just too far, so "lunching" at church solved that problem. Others joined from time to time for the fellowship. Mud roads and unfavorable weather conditions also prompted members to pack their sandwiches and join the regulars. Some even shared rides due to gas rationing. More often than not, staying for lunch seemed like the sensible thing to do.



The families of Paul and Dick Bandstra, and the Tunis Fy-naardt family were the pillars of the church basement crew. They may have earned this distinction simply because the size of their families resulted in filling up the space around several rectangular tables.

Occasionally my family joined this group because of reasons already mentioned or because of an invitation from one of my cousins. Joining their family for lunch was a most special event for me. (Interestingly, when I attempted to get some information from these same individuals for this story, I soon found that church basement lunches were not a part of their treasured memories.)

Why do I remember it so fondly? First, it didn't happen often for me, and second, I considered my aunt's cooking, including her sandwiches, to be out of this world. I think

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## Mentholated Chicken

During the winter a local chicken owner experienced a pesky but maybe not unique problem. This time it wasn't marauding foxes. Instead it was a genuine case of hen-pecking. Use to being free-range during the summer months, these particular chickens did not take to coop confinement very graciously. Instead—probably because they were bored out of their little chicken minds—these hens took to bullying one of their own. The poor hen soon had bare spots all over its body. Being winter it really missed its warm feather coat.



The owner, desperate to stop the attacks, got some good advice from another chicken "farmer" in the vicinity. The advice: smear Vicks all over the bare areas of the harassed chicken and the others will leave it alone.

For those of you who are interested in strange cures, the big question is, "Did it work?" Well . . . yes it did! In no time at all the missing feathers regrew and now that summer is here the victim is happily marching around looking for bugs with its hen friends. Thank you Vicks! And thank you to the chicken farmer who asked to remain anonymous but was willing to share the story.



-Marilee Vander Wal

The Peoria Partyline staff would like to thank Warren Van Wyngarden for serving on our team for several years! We will miss all your great ideas and fun story telling!



If you (the reader) would be interested in taking Warren's place on the team, please give Marilee Vander Wal a call (625-4145) and she can share with you what our team does, and where your talents would fit.

## Recycling Service in Peoria

Would you like to recycle those tin cans and newspapers? Recycle Midwest comes through Peoria to pick up materials that can be recycled, as they are on their way to or from Lynnville.

Paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, aluminum and tin can be recycled. They can be brought to the Numark building which is along Main Street, down the gravel road a few yards to the east, and across the road from the grain bins. When bringing your materials, please:

- Rinse materials clean, otherwise they just become trash
- Leave labels on containers and staples in paper
- Put materials in separate secure containers, so that they do not blow around



- Place bags/containers at the northwest corner of the Numark building, not in front of the doors

### When are they picked up?

The first and third Saturdays of the month, usually around noon, occasionally about 8:30 a.m.

To find out what materials can be recycled, go to [www.kalservices.com](http://www.kalservices.com) and click on the "Recycling" tab. Or you can pick up a brochure in Pella at 906 W. 9th St. You'd be surprised how much can be recycled.

We want to thank Numark Building Corp for allowing us to place our recycling materials on their property. And we thank Recycle Midwest for picking up these materials free of charge. This community service is deeply appreciated.

-John Gorter

*-Pastor continued*

Lower Grove. "The feeling of a close knit family within the congregation was part of what kept us there," Cornie commented. "And I couldn't have done it without the support of my wife, Erma! She was a very important part of my ministry." Cornie also said his 32 years as a preacher have made him appreciate the work of other ministers and what they go through. "To tell people God's truth—that was my mission," Cornie stated, "and sometimes that created pressures."

What about the little church that is now without a pastor? Currently there are about 30 people in attendance on a typical Sunday. They still have Sunday School, but currently no evening service. Several pastors from the area have been willing to fill in each Sunday.

The group is not sure what the future holds. They plan to hold services through Vacation Bible School and then discuss all options. Whatever it is, they will rely upon the Lord as they have in the past.

-Sharon Blom



July 12 to July 15 / 8:30 - 11:30  
Peoria Church

Theme: Inside Out and Upside  
Down on Main Street

Ages 4 yr. olds to those who just  
completed 6th grade

### Registration / Contact:

Helen De Jong (637-4332)

Michele De Boer (628-8315)

Or go online to [www.peoriarc.org](http://www.peoriarc.org) and click on link

Preregistration online available or stop by the church on Monday, July 11 from 9-12.

There will be a program Friday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m. with a community hog roast following at 7.



# ... heard about it on the partyline ...

## ■ Business Services

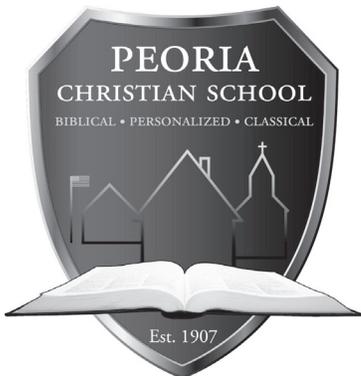


**Van Dyke Repair Inc.,** General repair on tractors and combines. Wayne Van Dyke, 641-625-4146.

**Skunk River Restoration** Re-paint all makes of tractors. Jim De Bruin 641-780-6114

## ■ For Sale

**For Sale:** First crop grass and alfalfa round bales. 625-4122.



625.4131 [www.peoriachr.org](http://www.peoriachr.org)

## Community Calendar

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| May 30  | Memorial Day Service<br>Peoria Cemetery 9 a.m.  |
| June 2  | Ascension Day Service<br>Peoria Church 7:30 p.m.  |
| June 26 | Outdoor Worship Service<br>at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited. Light lunch will follow. Bring y/o lawn chairs. |
| July 12 | VBS starts 8:30 a.m.<br>Peoria Church   |
| July 15 | VBS Program<br>Peoria Church 6:30 p.m.<br>Hog Roast 7 p.m.  |

*-Sunday Lunch continued*

Paula Deen would pale in comparison to my aunt's culinary skills. Soft white bread was spread with butter and bologna salad made early on Sunday morning. Then there was the orange/lemonade drink laced with lots of sugar, and a fresh cake thick with icing for dessert. Third, time spent with my girl cousins was always special. I must admit, though, that I considered the mealtime devotions to be a bit over zealous. First there was the "blessing the food" prayer followed by our lunch. Next was a lengthy reading from a Bible passage followed by another long prayer. From the perspective of a child, this seemed quite unnecessary after just sitting in the pew a good deal of the morning.

Finally it was time to really chase around the church, march up and down steps, and possibly play outdoors on the school's play equipment. We did not change into play clothes—so our antics were somewhat limited—and there really weren't a lot of rules, but going into the church sanctuary was forbidden! One of my cousins who believed (still does) that rules were made to be broken, decided that she would like to experience standing by the pulpit, possibly sitting in each of the three chairs behind the pulpit, or pretending to be the organist. She coerced one of her law-abiding cousins to join her on this venture. The escapade was short but sweet, and they returned before they had a chance to be missed.

The boys, left to their own devices, were another story. But that will have to wait until the next issue! See you then!

-Wilma Blom

## Holy War (Part 3)

The Methodists of Granville observed an 1882 5-day-debate in Peoria—between the Peoria Christian Church and Seventh Day Adventists who were winning converts in the area—with interest. That interest turned to alarm when it became apparent that the Christian Church was not winning the debate. It seemed the SDA position was being aided by the event rather than curtailed. Determined not to have the same results in their own town, they called on the Rev. Francis Wesley Evans, a Methodist minister in Fairfield, for assistance.

Despite his small size—which gave him the nickname of "The Boy Preacher"—Evans was a giant in Iowa Methodist circles. At the age of 22 he was given a license to preach in Methodist churches as a circuit-riding preacher, and during his 40-year ministry he served in 18 different positions. His preaching skills were widely-known, but even more, he was recognized as an eminent debater. For any "isms" that sprang up—Universalism, Spiritualism, and Seventh Day Adventism—there stood F.W. Evans to vigorously fight each one. Through preaching, writing or debate he was notoriously prepared for most any theological tournament. And he would usually win.

So it was with this background that Rev. Evans arrived in the tiny village of Granville in Richland Township. His mandate—to help the local Methodist congregation stem the SDA tide. But instead of the traditional debate form, Evans elected to give 5 lectures in the Methodist Church. The SDA folks would be allowed to give rebuttal lectures in the same building the following day. To help bolster the SDA presence, Henry Nicola—organizer of the SDA tent meetings in New Sharon the previous fall—also came to participate.

This appearance by Henry was probably more than coincidental, because F.W. Evans had also been called to New Sharon by the Methodists there—following Henry's departure—to discount his SDA message. The stage was being set. Things were tense and Henry Nicola no doubt felt the current. He wrote back to his denomination's magazine: "Found this community in a state of feverish excitement!"

So, how did the Grandville Methodists fare in the upcoming storm? Look for the conclusion of this story in the September issue.

-Calvin Bandstra

The county is also planning on changing the road through Peoria but are not sure how to do it. They are open to any ideas so contact them with your vision if you have one! Once again, approval and budget concerns will determine when this will happen. Let's hope we see the sign on the right . . . sooner rather than later.

