

# Peoria Partyline



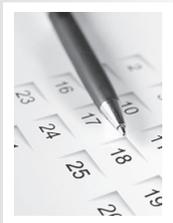
connecting the extended Peoria community

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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.peoriacrc.org](http://www.peoriacrc.org)

## A Century of Change

Every year at the Iowa State Fair, families who have owned and worked the same farm for at least 100 years receive special recognition. This year two farms from the Peoria area were among the 344 added to the list of Century Farms in Iowa. Pete and Nancy Westercamp and Jon and Doris Nibbelink, along with their families, were presented with plaques and certificates on Tuesday, August 12.

Many changes have occurred during those 100 years. Obviously, land values have soared. The 100 acre farm that Johannes Westercamp purchased in 1895 cost a total of \$3500. Gerrit Nibbelink first purchased the Nibbelink farm in 1908 for \$87.50 per acre. The deed to the Nibbelink farm traces the original owner back to Dominie Scholte, founder of Pella. Current owner, Jon Nibbelink, has either lived or worked on the farm every summer of his life.

Ida Nibbelink-Kloosterman, who grew up on the Nibbelink farm, recalls having relatives from Michigan arrive unannounced, planning to stay for a week. She remembers, "Although that suddenly increased the Nibbelink household from 10 to 18 individuals, I don't recall it causing my mother any great anxiety. She just took it in stride—having many more mouths to feed and finding places for everyone to sleep." Otto Vos recalls hearing that sometimes people slept in the barn at the Nibbelink farm. Do you suppose that's where the extra guests stayed?



Fellow antique buffs join Jon in shelling corn with his old sheller.

Gertrude Vos courted and married, as did Nelson Nibbelink and Phyllis Deur. When dating, it was rumored that Phyllis climbed the barn on their farm to see if she could spot Nelson on the yard at the Nibbelinks—but that has never been verified.

Over the years farming practices have progressed from using horses, to tractors, to modern planting equipment and combines. Perhaps the work is more stressful today, but for sure less strenuous than 100 years ago. Livestock is fed using mechanical feeding systems, rather than carrying buckets of grain. Farmers are much more conscious of conservation today too—so that future generations will be able to benefit from the precious gift of good farm land.

The original houses on both award-winning farms have been replaced. Pete and Nancy built their new home in 1978 and Henry and Nellie Nibbelink replaced their home in 1954. They had been living in part of the old Peoria Hotel which, near the turn of the century, had been moved from Peoria to the farmstead.

Century farms offer their owners other challenges as well. Both Pete and Jon have old, rather useless barns remaining on their farms. The decision to maintain them as landmarks or to tear them down is difficult. And even landmarks require a lot of ongoing maintenance.

There's a lot of pride in receiving a Century Farm award. The program began in 1976 as part of the nation's Bicentennial celebration, and to date 16,200 farms across Iowa have earned the right to be on the list. We're so proud that two of them are in Richland Township!



A photo of the original house on the Westercamp farm—taken around 1908.

-Doris Nibbelink



**Neighbors are much more than just names!  
Grab a cup of coffee and let's meet these fine folks!**

Peoria is a nice place to live, primarily because of nice people moving into the area. Just recently some new neighbors moved in at 135 West Street—Josh Van Baale, Teresa Sterk and Tyler.

Although he was born in Ft. Gordon, Georgia, Josh grew up in Knoxville. He enjoyed football and wrestling in high school and currently works at Vermeer in the corporate tooling department. (You'll have to ask him about the details.)

When he is not working or spending time with family, Josh does taxidermy work on the side. He has mounted animals such as fish, bobcat and deer. Mounting an otter was an "odoriferous" experience (translation—a strong fishy smell) and something he never plans to do again!

Teresa grew up on a farm in the Otley/Pella area. She also works at Vermeer as a manufacturing documentation coordinator. (Another question to ask!) Teresa enjoys cooking which Josh appreciates.

Tyler is in first grade at the Madison School in Pella. He does well in school and is involved in wrestling there. Tyler

likes to play with his Play Station games and his 50cc motorcycle. Yes, Tyler is as nice as everyone else in the household. You should meet them.



Josh & Teresa moved to Peoria for Tyler to be in the Pella School district, to live closer to work, and to get out into the country. They like the Peoria area because of the peace and quiet. And they really appreciate the kindness of the people here.

As a family they like to go to the lake for fishing and camping. Their boxer dogs, Bo and Kalli, are beautiful. They hope to raise registered pups.

Welcome to the Peoria area. And thank you for making Peoria an even nicer place. —John Gorter



## Home & Hobby All in One Building

The pole frame building on Bayard Ave is both a machine shop and spacious home for homeowner, Keith Veenstra. When asked why he chose to put up a pole frame house, he has a simple answer, "Economics!"

The result is a very comfortable two-bedroom, two-bath home with a convenient workshop attached where Keith can work on his hobby—restoring tractors. His interest in pole frame homes was sparked by a co-worker at 3-M who had built a similar house, but without the attached machine shop.

"The floor was poured in November, 2006," said Keith, "and in April, 2007, I moved in. Someone else built the frame, but I did all the interior work, including the electrical with the help of family and friends." He also put radiant heat in all the floors of his home, and uses corn heaters to produce the hot water for circulation through those floors.

The great room, which stretches the length of the house, contains the kitchen, dining room, and living room. "It easily held 30 people for a Christmas gather-

ing last year," said Keith.

"The past ten years I've enjoyed restoring antique tractors," he continues. "I buy and sells tractors via the Internet, using such sites as E-Bay and Craig's List." He often sells in other states and usually has a tractor about 6-12 months—the time it takes to buy, restore, and then sell it again.

"I have two antique tractors of my own," said Keith. "A 1967 Farmall 656 and a 1967 John

Deere 3020. I wanted the 3020 because we had one on the farm when I was growing up."

Keith does not belong to the Tractor Club, but you may have seen him plowing with them in the Skunk River bottom. More than likely he gets enough of old tractor talk when wheeling and dealing with tractor buffs from all over the country.

Stop by and see Keith's unique home sometime when you're passing by. Take time to pet his puppy, and don't forget to ask about his two house cats—"my mouse patrol" as he calls them.

—Sharon Blom

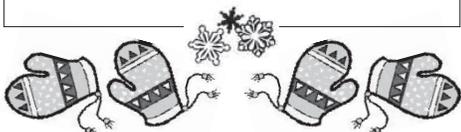


Dec. 21  
Youth Candlelight Service  
Peoria Church 6 p.m.

Dec. 25  
Christmas Day Service  
Peoria Church 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 28  
End of the Year Service  
Peoria Church 6 p.m.

Jan 1  
New Year's Day Service  
Peoria Church 9:30 a.m.



## In Loving Memory



Tillie Vos Slings was born near Leighton and attended a one-room schoolhouse through the 8th grade. In her teens she worked at the Rolscreen Company, cleaned houses, and cared for an ill father before meeting and marrying Martin Vos.

She and Martin farmed near Peoria for 32 years. As an active farm wife, Tillie enjoyed gardening, canning, flower gardens, sewing, and helping her husband. On her birthday, and their 32nd wedding anniversary, Martin was clearing snow when his tractor overturned and he was killed. Tillie did her best to carry on. She moved to Pella, worked at Fair Haven East in the dining room, and eventually married John Slings—her younger sister's widower. Although she outlived him as well, Tillie was never one to lose sight of her joy in her family and in the Lord. She will be missed.

## Homeschooling 8 (part 2)

Continuing the story. . . for the older children, the curriculum is mainly online with many different types of programs, including reading, audio, and classes that are interactive with excellent professors. They also include their own field trips. This summer they took a trip to Quebec City, Canada, with French lessons beforehand. For the older children a lot of time and effort centers on Advanced Placement courses. Along with AP courses and tests, they also are preparing for CLEP tests which can be taken at several sites around the state. All this work is geared towards acquiring as many college credits as possible.

“Just for your information,” says Angie, “there are three options by which home schoolers can meet state requirements: Yearly Basic Skills tests, Providing a Portfolio (outlining all the curriculum studied), or Using an Accredited Supervising Teacher as a resource person. The last option is the most popular one—and the one the Wittenbergs have been using.

There are some challenges with home schooling, including scheduling, use of time, and searching out resources. “One of the things that helped with all of our activities is that Zach just got his drivers license so he can help out with transportation,” said Angie. “I also serve as a “guidance counselor,” she continues, “with acquiring all the knowl-



*The younger Wittenberg children get into their studies at home, where mom is their teacher.*

*-continued on page 4*



## Local Musician Masters Basic

“I’ve always wished I could play my flute professionally,” said local musician Julia Vander Wal, “but I didn’t think I’d be earning that privilege by going through basic

training in the U.S. Army.”

Yet that’s exactly what she has done. On August 5 Julia left Des Moines to travel to Fort Jackson, South Carolina for the army’s non-combat basic training ten-week course. It was quite a ride of highs and lows, challenges, digging deep to see what a person is made of, courage, accomplishments and even miracles.

She earned the right to be called a soldier in the U.S. army on Friday, October 17 during an outdoor ceremony attended by her parents (Loren and Marilee Vander Wal) and grandparents (Gilbert and Iris Vander Wal).

Many of us in Richland Township and the Peoria church took a personal interest in Julia’s journey through Basic Training. More than once she said other soldiers asked how come she got so much mail. “I was proud to tell them that there were a lot of wonderful people back in the little town and church of Peoria, Iowa, who were thinking of me,” said Julia.

Now Julia is stationed at the Military School of Music which is part of the Little Creek Navy Base in Norfolk, Virginia. The school trains musicians of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. There she will study music and polish her musical talents in preparation for joining a professional army band in Germany after 6 months.

*-Marilee Vander Wal*



## Peoria Repair Closes

After three decades of service to the area, Peoria Truck and Farm Repair has closed operations. This was the last standing business operating in Peoria.

In 1974, Gerald Rozenboom (Boom) started this business in the old blacksmith place before purchasing the Peoria Stockyard’s shop with Ron Vander Linden. Later his sons, Wavern and Dennis, also joined. Through the years they did general maintenance on trucks and farm machinery, overhauled engines, and rebuilt trucks. It was hard work but very satisfying when a job was well done.

A sideline business was the Peoria Truck Lines—up to seven trucks hauling various products, including hay, cottonseed, bark and bedding. After a while they downsized. Boom still has one truck from that line.

At the height of its operation in the 70’s, the business had up to six employees. Boom said he trained a lot of young guys getting started in the job market. He would give them a job, even if they could only sweep the floor. At times

*-continued on page 4*



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

## ■ Business Services



**Van Den Broek Concrete, Inc.** for all your concrete work, Cornie Van Den Broek, Cell: 641-660-0109, or 641-625-4107.

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

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

**Peoria Trailer Sales**, Dennis Rozenboom at Peoria Repair, is now selling H & H and Calico Stock Trailers, 641-780-1886.

## ■ For Sale

**For Sale: Hay, grass/alfalfa mix.** Large rounds and small square bales. 625-4122.

**Lovell Family Farm:** Cage free, all natural brown eggs for sale. \$2.50/doz. Broiler chickens for sale. Call 625-4449.

Merry  Christmas!

- Peoria Repair continued

there were only a couple of people working. If both of them got sick, they still had to keep going. Many late night hours were spent at the shop.

This business was on a roller coaster ride through the years. Sometimes they had a lot of work, other times it was slow. At first the only other truck repair shop in the area was in Oskaloosa. Now there are seven. The ups and downs also depended quite a bit on the economy. In 1998, Wavern started working at Vermeer Manufacturing.

Around 2000 Dennis took over the business from his dad but he also lost some clients. It seems that today's businesses need to specialize and cater to a niche market, or grow much larger. After putting forth a valiant effort for a number of years, Dennis decided to close this year. He would gladly sell the business if anyone is interested. If it doesn't sell, there will be an auction to sell tools and supplies.

Dennis is unsure what he will do in the future. He is still selling trailers for Peoria Trailer Sales (625-4381). He has also had a couple of offers by businesses in the region wanting to hire him.

When I asked about anything interesting that has happened at Peoria Repair, Dennis shared about a truck driver who was startled when getting something from the bolt bin—there was a bull snake in it. Another time Dennis was walking across the frame of a truck in the wintertime, slipped, and caught the leg of his coverall on a bolt. As he was falling, his coverall was also tearing—and it let him fall slowly to the ground.

Peoria Repair was also known as a place to socialize. When the feed mill closed, coffeetimers began to meet at the repair shop—except when planting or harvesting was in full swing—and more often than not there were lively discussions about local issues and attempts made at solving many of the world's problems. At noon time you might also find a group playing cards.

Many of us only stopped by the Peoria Repair building on the first and third Saturdays of the month to drop off materials for recycling. Dennis says we may continue to do this, until/unless any new owner of the building wishes differently.

The Peoria community wants to thank Dennis and the rest of the Rozenboom family for their contribution to this area over the years. We hope it goes well for you in the future.

-John Gorter



Peoria Repair was Peoria's last active business.

- Homeschooling 8 continued

edge regarding requirements, resources for colleges, testing, etc." The Wittenberg family believes the benefits far outweigh the challenges.

In conclusion Angie comments, "I look at home schooling as creative problem-solving, where the special needs of each child can be addressed and changes and adjustments can be made as needed." Zach has said that the thing he enjoys is the great variety home schooling offers—in the different subjects he has covered, and in the many different modes of learning.

Another benefit Angie sees is that the kids really get to know each other as they have the opportunity to spend a lot of time together and interact in many ways. This includes the older children sometimes assisting the younger with their studies. For the Wittenbergs home schooling works and has been an overall positive experience for the family. Angie stated they are supportive of all school options, but this has just worked best for them so far.

-Sharon Blom



**Corey & Amy Thorson** welcomed their first child—a baby boy—on July 30. Tyler Henry weighed 7 pounds 3 oz.

**Dustin & Cheryl Pleima's** baby boy was born on Aug 18. Landen Garret weighed in at 7 pounds 6 oz. He too is their first child.

**Travis & Sarah Turnbull** (and siblings Treyton and Stella) welcomed little Sayer Michael to their family on October 17.