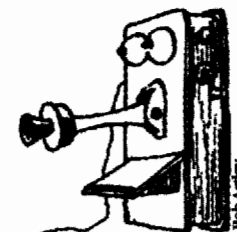


# Peoria Partyline



... connecting the extended Peoria community

Volume 1, No. 2

July 2005

## Short n' Long of it ...

- Pg. 1 ..... Neighbors moving
- Pg. 2 ..... Annual Hog Roast
- Pg. 2 ..... Tractor Fever
- Pg. 3 ..... The 4th in Peoria's Past
- Pg. 3 ..... Farmer's Market
- Pg. 4 ..... Peoria Feed & Grain (Part 1)
- Pg. 4 ..... Classified ads



Kid Stuff  
Page 3



Community Calendar  
Page 4



Planting Pumpkins  
Page 4

## CRC Minister Saves Methodist

Pastor John and Barb Gorter hopped into their minivan with their dog, Jesse. John is pastor of the Peoria Christian Reformed Church. It was April 4 and the weather was beautiful. They were on their way to Co-Line for a leisurely walk by the pond. As they rounded the curve heading north out of Peoria, they noticed two things.

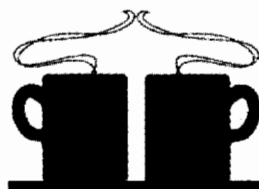
First, a new mobile home trailer had been moved onto a yard just north of Peoria, on the west side of the road. And second, sitting on the roof of this mobile home was a man waving his cap. "What a friendly neighbor," they thought. But when the man kept on waving, Barb, who was driving, thought he might be in trouble. They drove slowly onto the yard bumping over holes and ruts in the driveway.



Approaching the mobile home they looked up to see Kenneth Kiser, who lives just east of Peoria, looking down at them with a relieved look on his face. Ken explained why he was there. When the trailer was moved the chimney had to be taken down. So Ken, being a helpful neighbor, was putting the chimney back in place, along with fixing a couple of other things.



But there was a problem. It was a windy day and the wind had blown his ladder down, so he was stranded. Could he jump down? Maybe, but he was a retired, senior citizen and did not want to end up in the hospital. Ken had been waving for quite awhile and was getting discouraged, as car after car drove right on by. It tickled him that it was the CRC minister and his wife who stopped to rescue him. While talking, Ken mentioned that he goes to the Central Methodist Church in Oskaloosa and is actively involved there. He said the trailer would be home for newlyweds Lucas Balmer and Jennie Bandstra (daughter of Terry and Lona Bandstra) after their wedding on July 23. Ken also suggested the title for this story for the Peoria Partyline! Thanks Ken!—  
And now you know the rest of the story. -John Gorter



Neighbors are much more than names!  
Grab a cup of coffee and let's meet the Markins.

## A Young Couple on the Move

Chad and Amy Markin moved into their brick cottage in September 2003. Located at 135 West Street in Peoria, the house needed some work done inside. Over the past year and a half they've worked to get the house in shape but now they need to move on.

After graduating from Central College with a degree in biology and environmental science, Chad worked for the Corps of Engineers at Red Rock. Now he is working as a biologist for the Corps at Saylorville Lake. Amy has been working as a nanny for a family in Des Moines. That made for quite a commute for both of them so they decided to make a move. They put their house up for sale.

To Chad and Amy's surprise, within one week they received two offers on their house. They were expecting a few months time to look for a house to buy. Now they plan to move the first week in June and will be renting a place in Johnston, north of Des Moines. (Brett Waterbeck from Hartwick bought their home. He works at Pella Corp.) The Markins hope to eventually buy a house in Polk City and will look for a place that will accommodate their cat and dog as well. It will also be closer to work and to extended family since Chad grew up in Johnston and Amy in Des Moines.

Chad and Amy have loved it during their time here in Peoria. They enjoyed their nice  
- Continued on page 3



## Peoria Community Hog Roast



Finger licking pork BBQ is on the menu for the community hog roast on July 15. Julie Roose will be the cook, so we know it will be great! This second annual community event will take place at around 7 p.m. following the Vacation Bible School program. It will be held on the Peoria Church grounds, or the gym in case of rain.

Along with meat on buns, there will be a couple of salads and baked beans along with dessert and drink. So eat light that day and come hungry! Please bring your lawn chairs unless you don't mind sitting on metal chairs. Everything else will be provided.

Everyone in the extended Peoria community is invited, as well as the families of Vacation Bible School children. We're looking forward to an enjoyable evening. Hope to see you there. Come early and join us for the VBS program at 6:30 p.m. Questions? Call Pastor Gorter at 625-4313 or Dennis Rozenboom at 625-4373.

## A Report on Work Along the Skunk



Those of us that take the New Sharon to Pella expressway have noticed a change to our Skunk River back drop. In the early spring we saw many trees that had lined the river bank for years, get cut down and removed.

Those of us not living on the Skunk river bottom or trying to farm that land, were left believing the problem had to do with too much shade on the crops or possibly that the price of wood was up.

Ernie Roose was happy to give me the facts as to what was really going on.

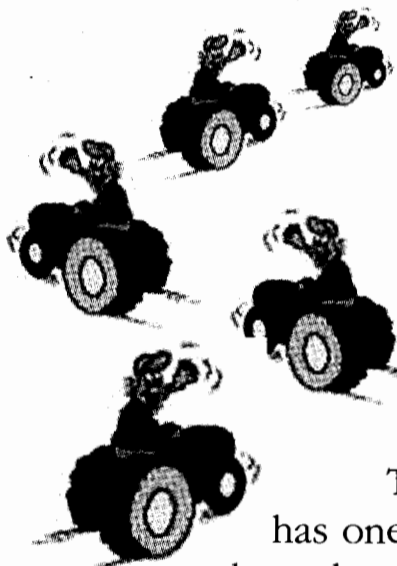
"Our biggest concern focuses on problems that occur when the soil around large trees situated near the bank of the river get saturated with rain," explained Ernie. "Once the ground is saturated, gravity takes over. The trees fall and we lose a lot of soil and dirt; then we fear losing more dirt next to the dike on the river side."

After the trees tip over and the river bank erodes, the levy becomes exposed to erosion from the river. He says there are already several areas where the river runs close to the dike and it can cause the "dike to lose its strength."

Ernie had the trees cut down on the river side of his property and a backhoe carried them over to the land-side of the levy and piled them up. "It's ok to leave the stump," said Ernie, "the stump won't bother the dike. It's the weight of the tree that causes trouble."

So next time you see Ernie say "thanks" for being a good steward of the ground in our township. Also be careful—it takes a strong man to keep a river on the straight and narrow!

-Doug Pleak



## Tractor Fever on the Rise in Richland Township

During the first warm weeks of spring, Richland Township is restless. New sounds and colors are found on the farmstead. Oil is changed, fuel is topped off and the lunches are packed. No, it's not time for field work but prep time for the annual tractor rides many of our neighbors attend.

There are several in the state of Iowa. WHO radio in Des Moines has one of notoriety and the Red Rock Threshers of Pella has toured through our township before. There are several enthusiasts from the Lynnville-Sully area too who go out on weekend afternoons.

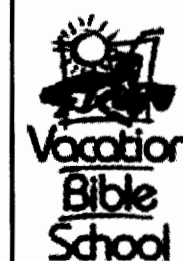
One of the highlights of these rides, according to Marv Wehrle, is visiting with everybody. He enjoys looking at the other tractors and comparing workmanship. He's been on a dozen or so tractor rides and enjoys going with his father. They drive either a D-21 Allis Chalmers, John Deere 520 or possibly a 1206 International Farmall they're just finishing up restoring. Marv enjoys southern Iowa drives the most. "I enjoy the rolling hills," he says. "They are the most scenic."

Jim DeBruin and his wife Ruth find time to attend tractor rides too. Ruth is usually driving an Oliver 66 and Jim drove a 7030 Allis on last year's WHO Tractor ride. He'll drive a John Deere 630 this year. The best part for Jim is renewing friendships with others who have been on the WHO rides over the last 7 years. "This is the only time of year we see them," he said. Last year Jim was selected as a group leader and relished the fact he had a cab style tractor to keep the papers in good order. Ruth has gone on the Red Rock Thresher's ride the last two years. They are both amazed at the number of local riders that come out for that two-day event.

Lawrence Roose has attended one WHO ride and one Red Rock Thresher's ride. He typically goes by himself but tries to ride with his friends. "What I like is the camaraderie and to be with people who value old tractors," he said. "I enjoy visiting with the other riders at stops," he added. He has driven a model A John Deere in the past but is planning on using a John Deere 720 this year. The 720 had its maiden voyage in and out of Tulip Time without incident. Lawrence usually waits for the rides as he doesn't find enough time to go out on his own.

Just stay near your porch or window on a summer afternoon, and you'll know if there is a tractor event near-by. My family often sees Gerald Rozenboom driving a tractor from his Minneapolis Moline fleet or we hear Loren Vander Wal, with his polished red Farmall H and a 2 bottom plow, heading out of town to do a little plowing. With all the tractor fever in this area, it's hard to imagine that people once thought tractors were for just for work and not for fun!

-Doug Pleak



**July 11-15** are the dates for this year's VBS at the Peoria Church.

**Time:** 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Ages:** 4 yrs.- 6th grade

**Theme:** Son Creek Junction

For information or to register call: Barb Vande Voort at 625-4233 or e-mail at dtbv@kdsi.net.



## Summer Goods

One of the best things about summer is the garden and the fresh fruits and veggies that come with it. Did you know that if you've got a brown thumb or no time to make a successful garden of your own, there are plenty of others that do? I'm talking about the Farmer's Markets. Both Sully and Pella have them, with Sully bringing in just a few vendors on Wednesdays and Pella offering several on Thursdays.

You can find these vendors on the square of each town in the afternoon and early evening. While for the most part it's garden fresh goodies that are available, there's more to it than that. Julie Roose from the Peoria area also sells fresh baked goods including breads, cookies, cinnamon rolls and bars.

I hope you get the chance to enjoy some summer fresh foods, whether you grow or buy them. —Nicki Veenstra

*- A Young Couple continued*

and inviting neighbors. "We wish we could take Peoria with us," they said. We wish you the Lord's blessing, Chad and Amy. We will miss you and we hope that you do well in your new home. —John Gorter



We hope so. If you or anyone you know would like to be added to the mailing list, let us know. Also let us know if you're moving and have a new address. Thanks and contact Nicki Veenstra - 641-625-4244

### Lower Grove to Celebrate 100 Year Anniversary

- ◆ Sunday, July 24
- ◆ SS 9:30 a.m./Church at 10:30 a.m.
- ◆ Potluck lunch at noon
- ◆ Program at 1:30 p.m.
- ◆ Everyone welcome

— Watch for details in local media —

Do you have a small business, service or something to sell? Need help getting your name and information out there? Call and we'll include your ad in the Peoria Partyline. Contact Terry Bandstra — 641-625-4122

## Kid Stuff



Summer is here and that means vacation—from school and home. Here are a couple of ideas to keep everyone involved and happy while on the road.

### Post Card Fun

Vacation is what every family looks forward to, and enjoys remembering. A simple way to do that is to collect postcards. Collect postcards from the entire route, it's an inexpensive and easy way to track all of the stops along the way. If you purchase doubles of the postcards, you can then play games like *Memory* and *Go Fish* to match up the pairs—great entertainment. Another idea is to write a thought from each family member on the back of the postcard at the end of the day, wherever you're unwinding. When you get home you can put these memory postcards in a small photo album and have a mini-scrapbook, without too much work and input from everyone. Either way is perfect for making the trip fun and storing away memories at the same time.

### Pipe Cleaner Creations

A package of pipe cleaners per family member will entertain everyone for hours. (They do me anyway.) It will get the kids' imaginations going and get them thinking about how to make something from nothing. Trying to guess what others are making will keep everyone involved in the fun. This is a perfect idea for riding in the car or anywhere else you'll be waiting.

Kids don't forget to get Mom and Dad involved in the fun! Make sure that they get a 'playtime' too. Everyone needs a chance to pick out a postcard or make a creature.



—Nicki Veenstra



## The 4th in Peoria's Past

Early in the 1900's the community of Peoria began observing the 4th of July with a celebration that uniquely balanced fun, socializing, and patriotic fervor with a spiritual emphasis. Many have memories of that annual event. Word is that the annual gathering began with a noon meal and a program in a pasture that is now part of Mike and Sandy Vander Hart's farm. Later it moved to the present Kenneth Vander Linden farm, then to a timber area northeast of Peoria, and finally to the Peoria Christian Reformed Church grounds.

Food service was provided by members of the Girls' Society. Kerosene stoves were transported out to the different venues so that large pots of coffee could be brewed and water heated for washing dishes. Soft drinks were cooled in stock tanks filled with blocks of ice that the young people had picked up from Oskaloosa early in the morning. Ham sandwiches, baked beans, iced tea and coffee were prepared to join potato salads, pies and cupcakes brought by families attending.

A hayrack or the back of a truck served as a platform for programs held out in timber areas. There was always a speaker, special musical numbers, readings, and plenty of American patriotic songs for the audience to join in singing. Games and contests traditionally followed in the afternoon. There were prizes for the children, and an exciting ball game that pitted the single men against the married men. Light-hearted humor helped everyone cope with the inevitable flies and "leftovers" from cattle that dotted the timber pastures.

The day evolved into somewhat of a "homecoming" for former Peoria residents until people no longer had the time or desire to participate. It's a bit sad that this tradition is now just a memory.

—Marilee Vander Wal



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

## ■ Business Services

**Peoria Trailer Sales**, Dennis Rozenboom at Peoria Repair, new dealer for Calico Stock Trailers, 641-625-4381.

**VAN'S Electrical & construction services**, John Van Wyngarden, 1480-168th St. New Sharon, IA, 50207, 641-625-4280.

**Tired of Wasting Hay?** Call Dave Lovell about the Hay Miser. 641-625-4449.

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

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

## ■ Wanted

**Wanted—horses to trim** and shoe, call Lucas Balmer at 641-891-0255.

## ■ For Sale

**1996 Ford Windstar GL**, \$2,500.00. Call Mike Vander Hart at 641-625-4403 for more details.

## ■ Farm/Livestock

**Bird Dog Kennels**, Rick & Karen Harrill. Available breeds include: Labrador Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, and English Springer Spaniels. Call 641-780-4207 for more information.

## ■ Home Businesses

**For all your Tupperware** needs, call Becki Lovell at 641-625-4449.

**Arbonne International** New Rep. Sandy Vander Hart. Herbal based, pure Swiss - skin, body and health products. Home: 641-625-4403 or cell: 641-780-4403.

## ■ Youth Services

**Babysitting** by Maria & Elizabeth Bouwkamp, 628-2781.



Please call us for all your welding and metal fabrication needs. No job is too small or large. Portable welding services also available, 641-594-2953, 1232 100th St. Sully, IA 50251

**Co-Line Repair Shop Hours:** Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Join our Co-Line team!** [lrussell@colinemfg.com](mailto:lrussell@colinemfg.com).

## Baby News

\* Wade and Trish Van Dyke of Pella are the parents of a boy, Dylan Wade, born on March 23. He weighed 8 pounds and 1 ounce and was 21 inches long.

His grandparents are Butch and Sharla Kampman and Wayne and Norma Van Dyke, all of Pella.

His great grandparents are Claas Kampman of Parkersburg, Calvin and Janice Stahl of Aplington, and Nellie Westerkamp of Pella.



## Tilling, Planting, Watching Them Grow

Working the soil, whether with a big machine or walking behind a tiller, is enjoyable. As usual this year I will be planting pumpkins, gourds, squash, Indian corn and broom corn on the Roose farm. The ground around our home sometimes looks barren into July, but there is definitely something growing. Between June 1 and June 15, I plant more than 15 pounds of seed in the ground. One seed will produce 5-6 pumpkins and 10-12 gourds. I've had one produce 22 miniature pumpkins. As the summer months go, watch as you pass how the ground slowly disappears to be covered up with green vines. In August and September watch how the orange and yellow colors start to show up between the big green leaves. Then comes harvest and this fall I'm sure we'll have plenty on our yard for sale again.



Our farm is just north of Peoria on the east side of the highway. I'm sure you'll recognize it as you see the big garden plots just north and south of the house. Good luck this growing season!

-Arvin Roose

## Peoria Feed & Grain: The Early Days (Part I)

Otto Vos started in the feed business as a salesman back in 1953. He was looking for more land to farm but couldn't find any. At that same time Jake Vander Molen and Mel Deur, the owners of Peoria Stockyards, were looking for someone to sell feed. They were hauling two or three loads of hogs to Rath Packing in Waterloo every day, and they wanted to haul bagged feed back home. They asked Otto if he would be interested in selling the feed to local farmers for them. Otto took the offer and went right to work. It was a good match.

At that time farmers would feed either ear corn or shelled corn to their animals and then offer a protein supplement separately. Soon some wanted to mix the protein in with the corn or, as in the case with cattle and sheep feeders, they wanted to mix corn, hay, protein, and molasses to make a complete feed.

Jake, Mel, and Otto were more than happy to oblige the farmers but needed to make some important decisions before they could provide that service. (Continued in the next issue) -Terry Bandstra



*Sales was a natural fit for Otto Vos.*



## Community Calendar

**July 11-15:** Vacation Bible School at Peoria CRC

**July 15:** Community Hog Roast at Peoria CRC, 7:00 p.m.

**July 24:** Lower Grove 100 year Anniversary Celebration

**August 8:** Ice Cream Social & Registration at Peoria Christian School