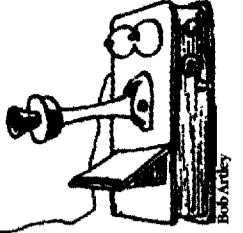


# Peoria Partyline



connecting the extended Peoria community

Volume 1, No. 3

September 2005

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## Peoria Feed & Grain: The Early Days (Part 2)

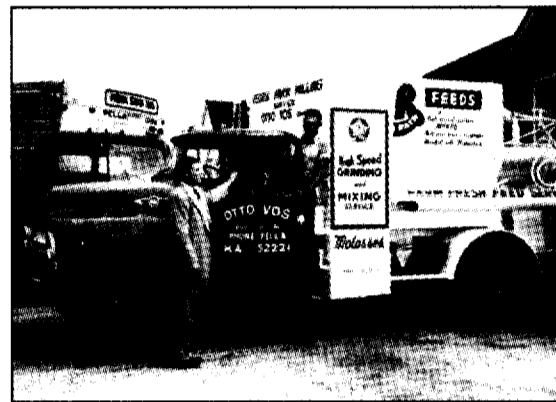
Continuing the story, Jake Vander Molen and Mel Deur were excited to see a new business opportunity opening up in the Peoria area following their decision to haul in bagged feed from Waterloo and have Otto Vos sell it for them. Farmers were asking for more. They wanted a complete feed for their animals—a mixture of corn, hay, protein, and molasses, and they wanted it delivered, ready to go.

The three men met to talk it over and decided the best plan for success centered around separating the feed business from the Peoria Stockyards. For starters, Otto would go to a

bank in Pella to see if he could borrow \$20,000 to buy a portable grinder that could mix two ton of feed and add molasses. If successful, Otto would launch a brand new business in Peoria. The Pella banker turned him down. Undaunted, Otto went to Taintor Savings Bank in New Sharon and repeated his request. Mr Pothoven, the banker there, considered Otto's request thoughtfully. "Do you think it will work?" he asked.

Otto replied, "You bet or I wouldn't have asked!"

"Then lets go for it," said Mr Pothoven. It was 1956 and that was the start of Peoria Farm Milling.



Otto Vos proudly receives the keys for his first portable grinder.

At first Otto's son Stan took care of their farm while Otto ran the new business. Later the land was rented to local farmer Marion Vander Linden and Stan joined his father in meeting the needs of a growing list of customers. By

1960 the business had grown enough that a second portable grinder was added to the fleet. Otto and his youngest son Melvin ran the old portable while Stan, and full time employee Gene Roose, operated the new one.

Meeting customer needs was top priority and a broken down truck was definitely hard on the bottom line, so Otto did everything he could to ensure one and prevent the other. A second gas engine was purchased for the old portable since, because of its age and the extreme demands of the grinder, its engine required overhauls regularly. The three Rus brothers, mechanics in Pella, were indispensable in keeping Otto and his team on the road. They would over haul the spare engine and have it ready to go. When a broken down grinder was hauled to their shop they would remove the engine, replace it overnight with the spare, and have it all ready to go out the next morning. Then they would start overhauling the removed engine, continuing the cycle. (Part 3 in next issue)

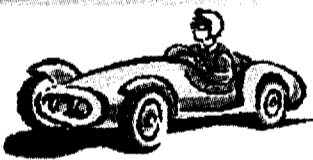
-Terry Bandstra



The team in the early days: (L-R) Gene Roose, Otto Vos, Stan Vos, Melvin Vos.



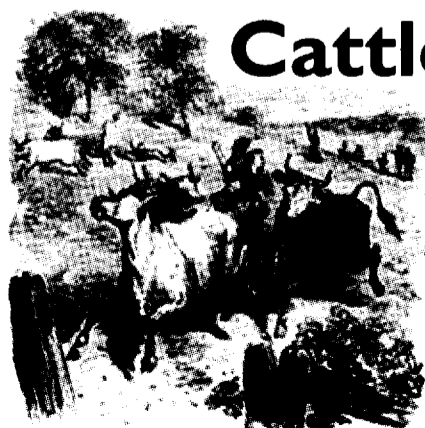
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## Cattle on the Run


Returning home from a very inspirational weekend in Chicago with the Gospel Singers Male Chorus, Ernie and I noticed unusual activity on our yard for a Sunday evening. It did not have the aura of a welcome home celebration! Ernie stepped out of the car and said to Jordan, "Why the dark look?"

Immediately, the story of the day started spilling out. Jordan had come to chore in the morning and found only one steer


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## Thanksgiving Traditions Peoria Style


As the days get shorter and crisp fall weather tinges the air, families in and around Peoria begin to make plans for Thanksgiving. Some were willing to give us an early peek into what they hope to be doing that day.


 "Thanksgiving is a great day in the Lovell house!" says Rebecca. "We get up early to get the huge, fresh, stuffed turkey from Ulrich's into the oven. Our dinner traditionally includes mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, corn, green bean casserole, rolls, and lots of other great food. My favorite part is the apple pie. Yes, we have pumpkin too, but I like apple the best! Everyone from my family that can make it are here, and we have a splendid time. Unfortunately Dave's family all live too far away to come."



 Wilma Van't Sant shares, "I have to work every other year at the nursing home on Thanksgiving, but, earlier in the month, before my parents head to Florida, we get together with all my brothers and sisters for a big meal. I really like all the traditional Thanksgiving foods—turkey, pumpkin pie, mashed potatoes, and gravy!"

 At the Franco's, Teresa says, "We make a big dinner, sit around the table, and then say Grace. Each of us says what we are thankful for and then we eat. I especially enjoy the turkey!"

 Chris and Amy Hill have Thanksgiving dinner at their home, or at the home of one of Amy's parents. "Ham is my favorite Thanksgiving food," says Chris.

 Sandy Vander Hart and her family go to a huge gathering for Thanksgiving! "When my whole family is there, it totals about 140 people!" says Sandy. Now that sounds like fun! Sandy always looks forward to one special treat at the gathering—the scalloped oysters!

My wish is that everyone reading this has a wonderful Thanksgiving, no matter what they are doing! If you are alone, or know of someone who is lonely, don't be afraid to speak up. Thanksgiving is the perfect time for people to reach out to each other. After all, that's what neighbors (and friends) are for, right?

-Rebecca Lovell



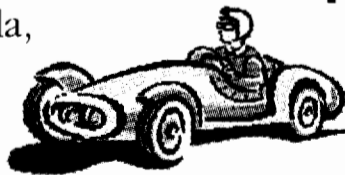
## Race Car Driver Moves to Peoria

Brett Waterbeck, a tall red-headed 25 year old, moved to Peoria's little, red brick house in June. He drives a red Chevrolet pickup, is a hard worker, and enjoys fixing up vehicles, hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, farming, and hanging out with his high school friends. He also goes to the Ozarks yearly with his family and relatives. His one-year-old black lab, C.J., is a companion and a hunting dog.

Brett grew up as a farm boy in Hartwick, east of Grinnell. After graduating from Iowa State University in 2003 with a degree in agriculture, he was hired at Pella Corp to work maintenance. His shift begins at 4:30 p.m. and lasts ten hours, sometimes more. At first he lived in a duplex in Pella, but had a yearning to move to a place just like his home town. He sees Peoria as such a place.

Brett's claim to fame right now is that he is the point leader in figure 8 racing in Brooklyn, which he has been doing for four years. He won a big race on the 4th of July weekend. Next year, he plans to move up to endurance racing: 200 laps in about 3 hours. Brett's racing career began with demolition cars when he and his friends formed a group called "Never Die Racing" during their high school years.

Brett says he enjoys the country setting, yet having friendly people close by. If you need help fixing something, give this handyman a call. That is, if you can catch him at home! Welcome to Peoria, Brett.



-John Gorter

## Search Contest

Hey Kids! A prize is being offered for the first person to find out who is the oldest person in the Peoria area. Here are the rules:

- You must be 12 years old or younger
- Email [jgorter@lisco.com](mailto:jgorter@lisco.com) with your guess
- Give the person's name, address and phone #
- Give your name and phone #
- Send your guess in by September 30, 2005

We'll let you know who wins and what the prize is. Have fun with the search! - John Gorter

- Cattle on the Run continued

standing in the lot. He quickly aroused his siblings to help him. It wasn't long and people began showing up on our yard to help. Having set up a blockade across the yard, the guys rounded up twenty of the forty-one steers and almost had them in the lot. Suddenly the steers spooked, found an open gap, and down our lane they ran. Upon reaching the road, some went north towards the Buckley Creek and others went south towards the river bottom. After a few hours of chasing, everyone went home for lunch.

Mid-afternoon, help on four-wheelers and eight horses arrived. The round-up began again. With great effort, they managed to drive eleven steers into the lot before going home. We slept little that night and put in five more as they wandered onto the yard while it was dark.

The story is long, but we mainly want to thank the many people from Peoria and neighboring communities who came to help us. Not only on that Sunday but also in the weeks to follow. We want to thank those who corralled, cared for, and returned our cattle; those who called us, prayed for us, and offered help in anyway. God has truly been good to us by answering prayers, sending good neighbors and teaching us patience and trust. As of today, we are still missing one steer. It too is important.

-the Roose family



## ROADS UPDATE

After enjoying our county's nice improvements on highway G5T last year, conversations have turned to what will happen next with our local roads. Jerry Nusbaum, our county engineer, was happy to share some information.

"I hoped that edge-draining highway T-33 north from Peoria, to the county line, would stabilize the existing D-cracking problem," he said. "However the continuing deterioration of the road is proof it has not held up to its end of the deal." He believes that road replacement would be ideal, but that has not been possible

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## Church Programs

In September churches usually start up many of their programs that took a break during the summer. Here is a sampling of what is offered in the two churches in Richland Township. You are cordially invited to participate.

### Lower Grove Church

- ◆ Sunday School for children through adult: 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ Sunday worship services: 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ Couples Bible study: Wednesday evenings
- ◆ For more information call the pastor, Cornie Van Wyngarden, at 628-9467.

### Peoria Church

- ◆ Sunday worship services: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- ◆ Sunday School for pre-school through adult: 10:45 a.m.
- ◆ GEMS Girls' Club: Wed. at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Cadets Boys' Club: Wed. at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Youth Group: Wed. at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Other Bible studies for adults are offered at different times throughout the week.

For more information, visit the church's website [www.peoriacrc.org](http://www.peoriacrc.org) or call the pastor, John Gorter, at 625-4313.

## Lower Grove Park—an Oasis in Iowa

Nestled in a quiet, private corner of Richland Township, Lower Grove Park is a small oasis that goes back more than 30 years. When asked where it is, curators Nancy and Clarence Spoelstra tell visitors to turn south onto 155th St. just off the east end of the Skunk River bridge, drive through the river bottom, and then watch for signs pointing the way.

"It was a gathering place started by Paul Vander Hart on land that used to be a farmstead," shares Nancy. "He wanted to create an environment for getting together with his neighbors and family, just like his father had years before."



During Harvest Days, neighbors and visitors all help in making sorghum the old way.

"We adopted Paul's vision 27 years ago," adds Clarence, "and keeping this place in great shape is a big part of it."

The clean and modern park has several electrical outlets for up to 10 campers and tents. It offers a pavilion for cookouts and gatherings, a fire ring for smores and conversation, bathrooms, and a serene setting providing a view of Iowa's gentle sloping fields. Scouting organizations, church and youth groups, and families searching for peace and quiet, use the campsite frequently. According to

Nancy, they get several campers per week. "It varies," she says, "with heat keeping some people away, but overall, we've been having good attendance lately."

It costs \$8 a night to camp. The fee helps cover the costs of upkeep, maintenance and insurance for such a friendly facility.

The Spoelstras also host Harvest Days at the park in the fall. Usually held the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in September, the event centers around the old fashioned art of sorghum making. It's another continuation of a tradition started by Paul who even wrote a book recalling his memories of sorghum making and the camaraderie of a neighborhood.

Clarence and Nancy, with help from friends, family, and volunteers, process the

- Continued on page 4



## Fabulous 50's Bazaar & Auction

The Peoria Christian School Circle is already at work and school has only just begun. Early each school year they host a bazaar and auction to help raise funds for the school. Every bazaar is planned around a theme and this year it's *The Fabulous Fifties*.

On Nov. 18th, 2005, the activities will start with a *Treasures of the Heart and Home Cookie Walk and a Soda Shoppe* from 1-4:30 p.m. There will be several hand made, provided-by-the-heart gifts to choose from along with a variety of cookies, ice cream, and goodies to purchase. Stop in for a wonderful supper from 5-6:30 and stay for the auction which starts at 7:00. The auction always offers a great variety of items to bid on. Child care and entertainment are provided so that parents can enjoy the auction while their children play, watch movies, or do a craft.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this delightful evening of food, socializing, and fun. The Bazaar Committee is asking for some help though. They're looking for a wide variety of decorations. Does anyone have a jukebox, old soda shop furnishings, Coca Cola items, Norman Rockwell memorabilia or other appropriate Fabulous Fifties decorations? If so, they would love to borrow them for the event. To loan a decorating item or to make a donation for the fundraiser, contact a committee member. These ladies would be happy to take your call any time: Ruth De Bruin at 641-625-4114, Myrna Fynaardt at 641-637-2629, or Sandy Vander Hart at 641-625-4403. See you there!

-Nicki Veenstra





# ... 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 and construction services**, John Van Wynn-garden, 1480-168th St. New Sharon, IA, 50207, Phone: 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 Dyke Repair Inc.**, General repair on tractors and combines. Wayne Van Dyke, 641-625-4146.

**CoLine Graphics**, Custom Vinyl and Lettering. Call 641-780-4207 for more information.



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).

## ■ 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.

**Babysitting** by Leah Vander Hart, 625-4403.

## ■ Wanted

**Dogsitter** for a lovable, 13 lb., nonshedding house dog while owners on a trip. Call Gorters at 625-4313.

## - Oasis in Iowa continued

sorghum largely by hand. They begin by harvesting the sorghum from the field with corn knives and then feeding the stalks through a mule-powered or a tractor-powered press to squeeze out the sugar laden juices. Those are then purified by slow-boiling them over a fire. The process is the same as it was done from the turn of the century. The State Food Inspector has dictated a few changes, but the final product is all natural with no additives or preservatives.

Along with sorghum making, the event features rope making, jack-o-lantern designing and other activities for the family. It starts mid morning and runs until evening. "We serve a pancake breakfast so you can taste the sorghum," says Nancy. "It's the best with butter on hot cornbread."

So save a little time this summer to camp out under a cool breeze or stop in this fall to get a rich taste of sorghum and nourishment from a neighborhood oasis. For more information on the park or Spoelstra's sorghum, call them at 628-3934. They'll be happy to answer all your questions.

-Doug Pleak



## Community Calendar

**Nov 18:** Fabulous 50's Bazaar & Auction starts at 1 p.m., supper at 5, auction at 7.

**Nov 24:** Thanksgiving worship service at Peoria Church, 9:30 a.m.

### Peoria Partyline Mailing List

Want to be on our mailing list? Are you moving or have a new address? Call Nicki Veenstra: 641-625-4244

### Classified Ads

Ads are free until the end of the year. Call by Oct. 20 to get yours in the next Peoria Partyline. Terry Bandstra: 641-625-4122

## - Roads Update continued

this fiscal year. His plan for the fiscal year 2007 would be to recycle and repave highway T-33 in conjunction with highway G5T from the Peoria corner to the Skunk River bridge. Doing the two roads together would make the whole project more cost effective.

"That brings up a classic question: What to do with the road through Peoria?" asks Jerry. He thinks it is important to address the situation practically and responsibly. As with all civic projects, funding and the timing of that funding is always crucial.

There are plans in place for Manaats Construction to edge drain and stabilize G5T from a half mile east of the Peoria "T" towards New Sharon. It's Jerry's wish to have the company confirm the dates to complete the task this fall. So, be prepared for some stop-and-go traffic in the near future.

-Doug Pleak

## Recycle Reminder

Don't forget that Peoria has a recycling pick-up area. Accepted items include: newspapers, clean plastics, glass, and tin cans. Sort the various items and bring them to Peoria Repair first thing in the morning on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays every month.

Clip this out for your convenience.



- ◆ Lay bags by dumpster on the north side of Peoria Repair.
- ◆ Have clean items there by 11:30 a.m.
- ◆ Acceptable plastic items will have a 1, 2, or 3 on them.
- ◆ Mark any container(s) you wish to save or reuse. Pick them up later.