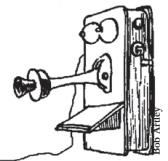


# Peoria Partyline



connecting the extended Peoria community

Volume 3. No. 4

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## Tornado Too Close for Comfort

The evening of September 30, 2007 will be remembered for a long time. That Sunday night, a tornado touched down and began to carve a path of destruction across the north-west corner of our township. Narrowly missing Pete Jochem's farm, the monster headed straight for Co-Line Welding's factory complex, tore through it, and then continued to the northeast for another 15 to 20 miles. Crops and property were left crushed, damaged, and littered with debris. Providentially, no one was fatally hurt.

Gaylord De Jong and others from our township who work for Co-Line, remember getting a call that night. Yet the extent of the damage didn't sink in until the next morning when all employees were called in to help with clean up. Gaylord discovered that the repair shop where he worked was almost completely destroyed. Strangely, in the repair shop's small office (which was left unscathed) most of the papers were still right where they had been left the previous week.

The middle factory building sustained major damage. The roof was 2/3 gone, and about 20 feet of the south wall was ripped off. Crumpled and twisted steel siding was scattered throughout nearby fields. Insulation was strewn for miles. Tools and supplies had been tossed about—covered with debris and insulation.

For several days, both the company's workers and area volunteers worked hard to clean up debris and get things back under cover. Machines needed to be cleaned and repaired. Steel supplies that were salvaged were moved to the undamaged south building for storage.

By Wednesday, although much of the roof was still missing, some production lines started up again. Other employees continued with clean up. Salvaged equipment from the repair shop

was brought to the former Kruseman Implement building in Sully. "We'll be back in operation as soon as possible," says Gaylord.

For the rest of us, it was a tornado that came too close for comfort! When the warning sounded, many sought shelter in their own basements. People at the Peoria Church headed

for the basement half-way through their evening service. Little did we all know about the monster just a couple of miles away.

The after affects of the storm go on. Farmers with flattened crops, or fields full of debris, need to figure out how to get the harvest in. Others are still coping with loss of homes, farm buildings, and personal property. It's not too late to offer help.

All in all, I think we agree with Gaylord's insight as he stood looking at what was once his place of employment. "We are all thankful that no one was there," he said, "and that there were no injuries."

-Doris Nibbelink



*Co-Line's middle building had steel siding from the roof and south side ripped off.*



*Co-Line's repair shop was reduced to a pile of twisted metal and wood.*



*Twisted steel and insulation were strewn for miles.*



## A Portrait of a Local Artist

Although always artistically inclined, for a time Harvey Blom was not interested in painting or art. As a child he enjoyed drawing horses, but that was it until he returned from the war in Vietnam and began working at Vermeer Mfg.

Then an ad for a correspondence course to become a draftsman changed his life. He took the course, rediscovered his passion for drawing, landed a position as Technical Illustrator, and began drawing illustrations for Vermeer's parts books. "Back then we did it all with a pencil," said Harvey. "Today it's all done on the computer."

"I became aware of the vanishing point in illustrations I was drawing," remembers Harvey, "and that really tweaked my interest. It's what makes a road or railroad track look like it is going away from you—into the distance—and it is what gives drawings depth and perspective." He took his discoveries home and began experimenting with them in his own time. "At first I used pencil," he says, "but then I added pen and ink."

His new-found passion gave him the courage to take a couple of art classes at Pella High School and more in-depth courses, which focused on painting, at the Des Moines Art Center. "My painting teacher was very tough on us," says Harvey. "He was known to say things like 'You painted that like you would paint a garage,' but he also was the one who said 'A good painting starts with a good drawing.'"

Most of the things Harvey paints today are country scenes—around

Peoria, around their farm, barns, wind-mills, hay bales, and sheep. Occasionally he paints domestic scenes. His wife Sharon's favorite painting—one called "Oil, Oil, Oil"—shows a toolbox and all the equipment needed to paint.

"I find myself appreciating all of Harvey's paintings," says Sharon. "So many of them capture a disappearing life—like the painting called 'Between Loads.' It shows an elevator sitting by a barn, with a man taking a drink up in the haymow door."

Harvey's favorite—called "Cake"—shows all the ingredients needed to bake a cake, setting on a counter. "That painting took me months to finish," says Harvey "in fact the eggs began to spoil before the painting was done!"



"Cake" is a favorite painting

Harvey tries to create four or five paintings a year and he still draws a lot. When traveling, he sketches outlines of scenes in a album—like others have a photo album—and then he fills in and finishes

the scene when he gets home again.

Harvey participates in the "Healing Through Art," program at the Pella Regional Health Center, which takes two paintings a year, and he always submits a couple to the Iowa State Fair—just to see if they can get in.

"The fair only takes about half of the paintings submitted to them," says Harvey, "and for the past two years both paintings I submitted have been accepted."

Harvey doesn't try to sell his paintings but people at the fair have made him offers. "No," he comments, "I paint just because I enjoy it—and I want to keep trying to get better."

-Marilee Vander Wal & Terry Bandstra



## Wild Turkey Hunt

The turkey population has been growing in Iowa. Families living along the bluff, above the Skunk river west of the bridge, regularly see flocks of turkeys in their woods. One day a flock of about 40 birds paraded across Harv and Sharon Blom's yard and into their garden. The DNR has also taken notice. This year they will be offering about 4500 gun/bow licenses for the fall and spring wild turkey hunting seasons.

Two that regularly hunt on the Bloms' land are Jeff and Tina Van't Sant. They both grew up hunting and have been concentrating on turkey hunting for about 5 years. "We both enjoy the challenges of turkey hunting," says Tina, "especially calling them in. With turkey hunting you have to get them to come to you instead of chasing them. They also possess keen eyesight and hearing. Then add to that a need to be in close range because you need to shoot them in the head as their feathers are too tough for the bullets to generally penetrate."

Turkey hunting involves a great deal of preparation and perseverance. Before the season begins you'll find Jeff and Tina practicing their calls by watching videos and imitating the different calls. Then, about a month before the season opens, they will go on several scouting trips into local timber areas. Their goal? Pinpoint where the turkeys are gathering by looking for signs like acorn gathering, scratching areas, and feathers.

The actual hunt involves different techniques in the fall and the spring, but both include an early start (just before day-

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## Some Christmas Traditions



✂ For years our family has had the custom of singing choruses from the *Messiah* at our Christmas gatherings. We always have all four voice parts and good accompaniment. Adults and high school age participate.

✂ We've had fun with a family gift exchange. Each gift had to be hand-crafted by the giver. For those of us less talented in creating things, this was a big challenge. Some of us procrastinated too which resulted in work-

ing on gifts while on the way to the Christmas party.

✂ Our family goes on a treasure hunt to find our first gift to unwrap. After that we gather around the tree.



**Neighbors are much more than just names!  
Grab a cup of coffee and let's meet the Marsh family**

A young family and a stray dog moved into Peoria about the same time this year—St. Patrick's Day. Just a few weeks earlier, Brad and Kendra Marsh had started to talk of buying instead of renting a home in Pella. In their search for property, they discovered that Peoria had more affordable homes to offer. Brad liked the big shop in the back yard of 175 West Street. He didn't even need to look at the house. For Kendra it was the house—it felt so homey.

Brad grew up in Tracy and enjoyed the Cadets program at a church there. He attended the Twin Cedars and Monroe schools. After being employed at a number of handyman jobs, Brad is now maintenance supervisor at Pella Regional Health Center. A couple evenings a week he also attends William Penn College—aiming for a bachelors degree in business administration. Brad enjoys tinkering, tearing things apart and fixing them.

Kendra grew up on an acreage near Knoxville, where she attended school and went to the Apostolic Church. After graduating from high school, she married Brad, which was 13 years ago. Kendra takes care of payroll and invoicing at TK Concrete of Pella. At home she enjoys being a mom. Together Brad and Kendra are still working on their house: painting, new flooring, installing central air, and trying to keep the cat outside.

Brad and Kendra have three children. Zachary (10) and Spencer (8) enjoy video games. Katelyn (4) is learning sign language in a Pella preschool. Some family outings include

going to grandpa's farm in Knoxville—where they keep their horses—little league baseball games, and camping together. Brad is coach of Zach's baseball team and really enjoys it. The family rarely misses a game.

Lately they've been involved in geocaching. A number of items are hidden in a large area or campground. The global positioning system (GPS) coordinates are written down. The challenge is find as many of these items as you can, using a GPS unit. It's a hi-tech scavenger hunt. If you're interested in learning about geocaching, visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) to find out more. The Marshes have a fun time with the sport. It is a great family activity and great exercise too.

Oh, about the dog. A Bassett hound was roaming the streets of Peoria, looking for a new home. After checking to make sure previous owners did not lose him, the Marshes adopted him. A neighbor girl, Emma, had called him Rusty. The name stuck. They have also adopted a stray cat. Her name is Magic. So if anyone has any extra dogs or cats around . . .

The Marshes are a friendly and kind family. Stop by sometime and you'll see a lot of smiles. Welcome to the Peoria neighborhood!  
- John Gorter



## A Music CD: From Plans to Production

"After concerts, there are always people who make their way to our 'sale' table," says Warren Van Wyngarden (bass singer in the Journey Bound Quartet). "What better way to take the Christian message that Journey Bound shares, home with them?"

At the same time though, he wonders if anyone buying a CD ever stops to think about what it took to get it there.

"It's really quite a process," continues Warren. "We start with a list of about 20 - 25 songs that we like—or that we have heard other groups do—and then we narrow it down to 10 or 11." The final choice is made in March.

First of all, background tracks are made for each song. "We try to get Tim Parton, a well-known pianist, to produce our  
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The youth group at the Peoria Church will lead a candlelight service on Sunday evening, December 16.

This 6:00 p.m. service will include a number of Christmas musical numbers. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Upcoming Events

**Dec. 25:** Christmas Day service at the Peoria Church at 9:30 a.m.

**Dec. 30:** End of Year service at the Peoria Church at 6 p.m.

**January 1:** New Year's Day service at the Peoria Church at 9:30 a.m.

## Hello and Goodbye

▶▶ The Peoria Partyline welcomes Sharon Blom—a new team member & writer. Look for her article in this issue.

▶▶ We bid farewell to Nicki Veenstra who has been helping with writing and mailing out our newsletter each time. The arrival of twins, next spring, will more than keep her busy.

▶▶ We are pleased to welcome Helen De Jong who will be taking over our "mailing department." Welcome Helen! We're excited you're on the team!



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

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MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



Happy New Year!

### - A Music CD continued

tracks," continues Warren. "This involves Tim playing keyboard and also hiring musicians from Nashville for additional instrumentation needed on the tracks." Journey Bound has used rhythm and bass guitars, steel guitars, dobros, mandolins, banjos, drums, harmonicas, and even orchestration on their sound tracks in the past.

"At that point our practice begins in earnest," says Warren. "We need to get the vocal arrangements nailed down. The more we practice, the less studio time is required to get things right." By mid to late June it's time for recording. The group's last few albums have been recorded in West Frankfort, IL.

In the recording studio—for about 3 to 4 days—each singer has his own microphone and headphones, and each voice is put on a separate track on the computer. Then comes a tedious process called the "mix down."

Since the "mix down" involves balancing and blending all of the vocal and instrumental tracks, it is done in a studio in Nashville on the computer. The engineer has to be able to both hear and see what he is doing to make an accurate and close-to-perfect mixing. The final mix is mastered—to equalize the volumes on each song—and then is sent, with the artwork for the CD jacket, to the duplicator.

"Our new album is usually available in late October," says Warren. "A long process indeed to get the final product on our sale table."



Warren Van Wyngarden (front right) sings bass in the Journey Bound men's quartet.

-Marilee VW & Warren VW

### - Turkey Hunt continued

break) and hauling a lot of supplies with you. In the spring, during mating season, the main technique is to set up a blind with 2 decoys near where you believe the turkeys are. Then begin calling—imitating the male gobbler to make him think you are a potential rival, or cluck like a hen to entice him closer. Fall hunting involves figuring out where their feeding and nesting areas are, setting up your blind and decoys, and hoping they cross between the two.

Once they've bagged a bird, hunters have the challenge of carrying the 23-25 pound carcass out of the woods to their vehicle. At home the birds are cleaned and dressed. Only the breast meat is edible—the rest is too tough. "I usually get about 16 breast filets from one bird," says Tina. "We also have to call the DNR to register our bird, and give them information on the county, tag number, weight, and length of its spurs." For a memento hunters will often mount their bird's tail feathers—fanned out on a board—along with the beard and spurs.

"One thing I really like about turkey hunting," says Jeff, "is getting out and away from it all."

Tina adds, "And I enjoy just being out in nature and seeing the different animals in their own habitat."

They both admit feeling frustration and disappointment when they miss a shot or are "outsmarted by an animal." They both agreed that sometimes it is more luck than skill. -Sharon Blom



Years ago, the Christmas program at the local one-room country school was the "kick-off" for the season. Kids prepared for weeks—learning recitations, practicing carols, and working on a skit or two. Then, just before Christmas vacation began, parents, neighbors and friends were packed into the school house to admire—and perhaps endure—the talents of the upcoming generation. There in the light of the hissing gas lanterns and kerosene wall lamps, all ages performed.

Afterwards everyone was treated to a variety of holiday goodies from farm kitchens of the district. Then the men stood around and talked farming or the weather, and the women commented on how cute everyone looked up on the stage and what a marvelous job the school teacher had done in pulling the whole thing off. The kids were excited it was finally Christmas vacation!

-Bob Artley