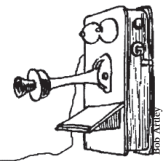


# Peoria Partyline



connecting the extended Peoria community

Volume 4, No. 1

March 2008

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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**

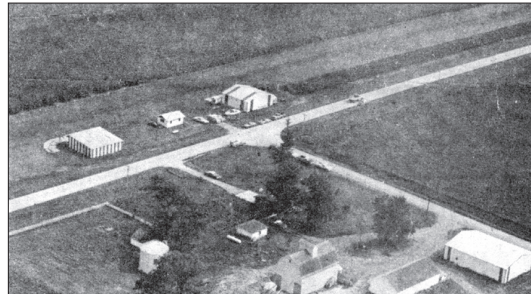
E-mail us  
with questions or  
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[peoria-ia-news@hotmail.com](mailto:peoria-ia-news@hotmail.com)

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## Provide an Airplane and They Will Come

Years ago it was common to hear the sound of a private plane taking off, flying “around the patch,” or circling in search of a 2000 foot grass airstrip that used to be located between Peoria and New Sharon. The tiny airport, located across the road from where Dennis Blanke now lives, had a club house, two hangers, several airplanes, and a subtle fascination that people could not resist.



*The Vander Waal airport was located just across the road from Roy Vander Waal's farm.*

It all started when Roy Vander Waal, a member of the Oskaloosa flying club, began to dream of his own club closer to home. Information went out, fifteen gathered to discuss the possibilities, Articles of Incorporation were created, and in 1969 the New Sharon Flying Club was officially born. A fairly level field, across the road from Roy's farm, soon became their official home.

Club members were all involved with planning the new airport, seeding the airstrip, mowing, construction of buildings, and spreading the word. A 1956 Cessna 172 was purchased for \$5000 and membership fees were set at \$1500 (a one-time charge) plus a fee of \$6.00 per flying hour to cover maintenance, insurance and fuel.

Club members were all involved with planning the new airport, seeding the airstrip, mowing, construction of buildings, and spreading the word.

“Provide an airplane and they will come,” would have been an appropriate slogan for the club in those early days. New members just kept coming. Every one started with ground school in the club house. It was given in the winter months—January, February and March—and took approximately 20 hours to complete. To graduate, students had to pass a written test given by a certified FAA instructor. Then came the flight test. Just to qualify, pilots had to log 40-50 hours of flying time. “Roy, our only instructor, would usually fly with you ten hours before he would let you solo,” remembers Ken Fynaardt. “And during solo time you were not allowed to have any passengers. We were



*An early hanger and the clubhouse beyond.*



*The first plane—a 1956 Cessna 172*

also required to make flight plans and to fly into different airports.” After receiving their flying licenses, all club members were required to do annual reviews and check rides.

Over the years inventory increased to three airplanes, and at one time there were 45 members in the club. “Amazingly—and despite many close calls—we only had one accident during all those years,” remembers Ken. “It involved our little Cessna 150. It flipped over when coming in to land, but the solo pilot on board was spared injury.” Another time the same little plane could not gain enough altitude to fly over the highlines at the end of the airstrip—so the quick-thinking pilot flew under them. If going out for a night flight, pilots would give Roy a call so that he'd know to turn on the runway lights after dark—a beacon showing them the way home.

“We gave many rides at our little airport,” said Ken. “In order to stay current, our pilots

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## New Development Coming Soon

This past fall bulldozers and scrapers appeared north of Hwy G5T on the old Lou Van Roekel property. Passersby noticed a new driveway appear and then stakes with red flags began popping up. It was the beginning of preparations for a new housing development that will be built in Richland Township. Called *Willow Crest*, the new neighborhood will hopefully reflect the dreams of Henry and Donna Van Rheenens who have been working on the project for almost 1½ years.

“It involves a lot of details,” shares Henry, “including surveying, working with the Board of Supervisors and County Engineer to be sure that all of the county’s regulations are followed, clearing the land, deciding what type of hard surface road to have in the development, and much more.”

The development will consist of 27 acres divided into 11 lots, ranging in size from 2 to 2.9 acres. All of the homes will have the potential for walk-out basements. As is typical of most developments, the homeowners will need to sign a covenant which stipulates some of the regulations of the development such as: only single-family dwellings can be built, some requirements on the style of house, that homes must be hooked up to rural water, etc.

Henry and Donna plan on selling the lots on their own and hope to begin moving forward this spring. Construction will hopefully follow this summer. Maybe by this time next year we’ll be welcoming new neighbors into Willow Crest!

-Sharon Blom

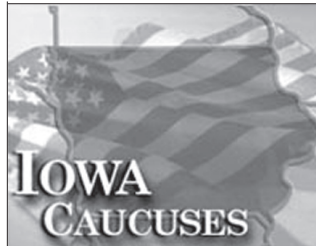


*Little Alivia with her parents Rick and Audra.*

## First Baby of 2008

We have a celebrity living right in Peoria. Little Alivia Rae Dingeman earned that status by being born on January 3 at 3:46 a.m. in the hospital in Pella. She was the first baby of 2008—a real honor and a very special memory.

Her proud parents, Rick and Audra Dingeman, didn’t expect the honor but were delighted when it happened. Most of all they were happy to have a healthy baby girl. Alivia received a monogrammed blanket from the hospital—a perfect gift to wrap her in when bringing her home to her siblings Austin and Avery.



On Tuesday, January 3, many of us from Richland and Prairie Townships left our homes to get involved in an old Iowa tradition—the caucuses. Since this was the first time the two townships were combined, venues for

the two parties were soon filled to overflowing.

The Democrats gathered at Harvey and Sharon Blom’s home. They managed to squeeze in 57 people. Republicans began filling up the conference room of the New Sharon fire station. When that room was full, and people were still lined up outside waiting to get in, organizers rushed to find more space. After several fire trucks were started up and backed out, the crowd picked up their chairs and 174 people soon filled up the large garage.

In both locations discussions were lively, suggestions for party platforms were submitted, and favorite candidates were chosen. The Democrats chose Hillary Clinton. The Republicans chose Mike Huckabee. It was rewarding to witness so much interest in grass roots politics.

-Doris N. and Marilee VW



## Saving a Life

Jon Van Vark did not realize when he went out to pick ear corn with his brother-in-law Charlie Thomas, that his life was about to change. It was November 1 and they were headed to a field a mile north of Peoria and just south of Bryce and Verla Van Vark’s home—Jon’s parents.

It was about 6 p.m. before they could get started as parts of the pull type picker had to be oiled. After oiling the chains, Jon climbed on the tractor and started up the picker. As Charlie drove off with the other tractor and wagon, Jon noticed the oil can standing in the way. He climbed off the tractor, headed for the oil can, and on his way he tripped on a corn stalk. As he fell, the gathering chain on the picker grabbed his knee and pulled his leg up into the picker. Then his foot, encased in a steel toed work boot, became wedged in the snapping rollers.

Fortunately with his leg in the chain and his foot in the roll-

ers there was just enough resistance to make the slip clutch start slipping.

Jon began to yell for help, Charlie heard him and came rushing back. He shut off the tractor and drove to the house where Verla called 911. Then she called for neighbors’ help. The first to arrive was Wayne Van Dyk with his service truck loaded with tools. Then came Lawrence Roose followed by the Sully EMTs who brought the Sully EMS who brought the Jaws of Life. Within minutes Pella’s EMTs drove up and then a Deputy Sheriff came with a surgeon from Pella to assist in controlling the bleeding



-continued on page 4



## Portrait of a Local Artist

There's another talented artist in our township! Marcia Pothoven has enjoyed drawing for as long as she can remember. "I always did more doodling than actually taking notes during lectures when I was a student," she admits. In high school she took the one and only art class offered. Back then most students who signed up for art class weren't really interested in art—just hoping for an easy class with little or no homework. "I envy today's

students who have so many materials and resources available," Marcia says. "I would have loved that." She also took the one and only art class offered when she was at Simpson College. Not surprisingly, it was her favorite class. "Most of my skills have been self-taught," continues Marcia. "I've never had private instruction."

Before she and Stan were married, Marcia began using oil paints. Acrylics are nice, but she likes oils the best. They allow for mixing the colors to achieve a new and unique blend. But even with oils she sometimes feels frustrated. "There is just no way to duplicate the gorgeous colors of sunrise and sunsets," she admits.

For her paintings Marcia purchases a canvas that is already stretched.

Then she begins the task of transferring her ideas onto the canvas. "I've probably painted nearly 100 pictures," she says. "I've given some away and sold a few—but for the most part I feel my paintings are very personal." From time to time you might see some of her work at Pella Regional Health Center's "Healing Through Art" displays.

Scattered throughout her home are paintings of beautiful landscapes, personal images, family vacation sites, and many paintings of horses—another one of her hobbies. Marcia paints just for enjoyment. "When I'm painting, an hour goes by very fast," she says. "Anyone absorbed in their hobby can relate—just where did the time go?"

-Doris Nibbelink



*Time flies whenever Marcia sits down to create a new painting.*

## Something for the Kids

- ☺ Did you know that ants are said to never cross a chalk line? When they come out this summer, give it a try.
- ☺ When you get a splinter, simply put a piece of scotch tape over the splinter, and then pull it off. Does it work?
- ☺ If you're helping your mom press Rice Krispy treats in a pan, run cold water over your hands before you start. Then the marshmallow won't stick. Like magic!
- ☺ Headache? Cut a lime in half and then rub one half on your forehead. The throbbing will go away.

*- Provide an Airplane continued*

had to fly an hour per month so there was ample opportunity to catch a ride if you knew who to call or showed up at just the right time." Members were also allowed to take trips with the plane but they had to schedule them in advance. "Roy had a commercial license which allowed him to fly for hire," said Ken. "I remember one unusual ride I took with him. We removed the back seat from our Cessna six passenger plane and then flew to Chicago to pick up the deceased body of a man from New Sharon. We flew into the O'Hare airport at 2 a.m., met the hearse on the runway, put the casket in the plane, strapped it down, and then headed for home."

During its best years there was always something going on at the little grass strip. Picnics, flying parties, U.S. helicopter flyins, stunt flying, and Flying-Farmers flyins. At club picnics pilots organized games. The most popular ones involved flying the 150 slowly over the airstrip so one could try and drop bean bags on a large target marked on the ground below, or coming in for a landing and trying to hit a line marked on the runway.

By the early 1980's liability insurance and other costs began to steadily increase. Government regulations became a burden and farm incomes went down. Finally the club was



*A plane parked near the clubhouse. Notice the picnic tables out front for club gatherings.*

forced to disband, pay their bills, and move their last plane—a Piper 235—to the Pella airport.

After the club dissolved Roy, Dennis Blanke, and Ken and Russ Fynaardt built and sold Prairie Flyers ultra-light planes for a time. "The first ultra-light we built had to be carried out of the cornfield twice during the test flight," said Ken. "It was discovered that the air vent of the gas tank was supposed to be open! Another time we mounted a spray rig on one of our planes to spray crops, but that was discontinued when we decided it was too dangerous." After building planes a couple of years, liability insurance went through the roof. "We decided to turn the little grass strip back into a corn field," said Ken, "and use the money we had accumulated to purchase a semi tractor." Today that semi has grown into a fleet of trucks. They are called the Prairie Flyers—an appropriate reminder of the busy little airport that was part of our community more than 20 years ago!

-Doris N. and Marilee V.W.

## Local Spotters

The Peoria Partyline now has "spotters." These are residents of Richland Township who are on the "look-out" for stories. If you know of someone/something that would make a good story, please contact one of these people and they'll pass it on to the Peoria Partyline team.

Lois Klyn 637-4379

Nicki Veenstra 625-4244

Le Ann Bouwkamp 628-2781

Lawrence & Helen Roose 625-4141



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

## ■ Business Services

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ELECTRIC**

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- Heating & A/C
- Geothermal
- Construction
- Brock grain bins

John Van Wyngarden  
625-4280

**V** 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.

Do you need scrapbooking supplies or assistance? Creative Memories consultant Tammy Veenstra is here to help. Call 641-780-2885.

**Peoria Trailer Sales**, Dennis Rozenboom at Peoria Repair, is now selling H & H and Calico Stock Trailers, 641-625-4381.

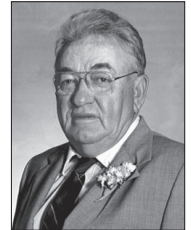
## ■ For Sale

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



*In Loving  
Memory*

**Evert & Cora Hol**



Both Cora and Evert Hol were born in 1920—Cora near New Sharon, and Evert in Knoxville. They were united in marriage at the Peoria CRC and raised five children in this area.

Evert was a lifelong farmer and Cora fulfilled her calling as a mother and later a nurse at the Pella hospital. They attended the Peoria CRC and lived in Peoria for a time after they built the house that Fred Slatten now calls home.

Cora preceded Evert in death by just a few months. Both will be remembered by family and friends for their love for family and the many memories they created in their lifetimes.

## - Saving a Life continued

and assess if emergency surgery was needed.

Some of the emergency crew and neighbors began taking apart the picker. Others put in an IV for the pain and tried to encourage and comfort Jon. Finally, after about an hour and a half, they had the picker apart enough that it could be turned backwards to free the foot.

Mercy Life Flight stood ready nearby. Jon was treated for shock and then, accompanied by his wife Kacey, was flown to Mercy Hospital in Des Moines.

He went right into surgery to make sure all of his cuts and bruises were clean. Doctors also made two relief cuts on his foot to relieve some of the pressure and then put his leg in a cast for four days. After it was removed, his cuts were once again cleaned and then stitched. This time his leg was wrapped. After six days in the hospital, Jon returned home.

For the first month Jon was told to rest. Then physical therapy started. At first two crutches were needed, then only one. There is hope that no crutches will be needed by the end of January. "I will be wearing a knee brace for awhile," said Jon, "but I hope that eventually that won't be necessary either. There is still a lot of pain in my knee because it was crushed, but with the passing of time I hope it gets less and less."

"When I look back on my accident, I feel thankful and blessed," says Jon. "My brother-in-law was there to hear me call for help, the neighbors and emergency crews came right away, and my injuries could have been much worse than they were! The Lord was definitely watching over me that night!"

-Terry Bandstra



## Tena Mae Bandstra

Born in the Lower Grove area as one of seven children, Tena attended the Peoria Christian School and attended the Peoria CRC while she was growing up. In 1945 she married James Bandstra and they settled onto the Bandstra family farm near Taintor. Three sons came along, and shortly after the birth of her third—Terry—she suffered a stroke. Although her speech and motor activities were very limited, Tena bore this trial with courage and continued caring for her family. She and Jim moved to Peoria in 1952, joined the Lower Grove Church, and continued to farm until their retirement.

Family and friends will miss her sweet spirit and love for God and others.



**March 1:** Hostess Supper for Peoria School, Gym, 6 p.m.

**March 8:** Turn clocks ahead one hour.

**March 12:** Prayer Service at the Peoria Church at 7 p.m.

**March 21:** Good Friday Communion Service at the Peoria Church, 7:30 p.m.

**March 23:** Easter Worship Service at the Peoria Church, 9:30 a.m.

**April 4:** Cadet Pancake Supper at the Peoria Gym, 5-6:30 p.m.

**May 26:** Memorial Day Service at the Peoria Cemetery, 9 a.m.

## Donations

The Peoria Partyline is starting its 4th year!

If you appreciate the paper . . . here's what you can do:

### Annual Subscription:

Suggested \$2 donation. Send a check to the Peoria Church marked for the Peoria Partyline. (120 Peoria West St., Pella, IA 50219)

### Classified Ads:

Contact Terry Bandstra for cost information. (625-4122)

## Upcoming Events