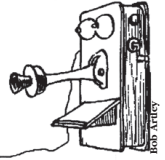


Peoria Partyline



connecting the extended Peoria community

Volume 5. No. 3
September 2009

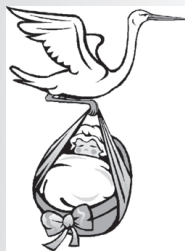
Short n' Long of it ...

- Pg. 1.....Rope Making
- Pg. 2.....77 Year Class
- Pg. 3.....The Beekeeper
- Pg. 3.....Weddings
- Pg. 3.....In Memory
- Pg. 4.....Peoria Pathways

Happy Home
Page 2



New Babies
Page 2



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
Online issue: www.peoriacrc.org

ROPE

Do you know how to make a rope? Rope making is a hobby that Milton Vos has enjoyed for more than 20 years. One year a friend of his from Oskaloosa invited him to help make rope at Nelson Pioneer Farm for its annual Fall Festival. That was all it took to rope Milton into a new hobby.

Years ago all ropes were braided by hand. Later, simple machines were used to make heavy barn ropes for hay hoists. With a rope machine, a farmer and his family could convert bailer twine into a 140 foot rope—an inch in diameter—quicker than they could ride their horse to town and back to buy a new rope.



Milton owns several rope makers—some to make three-strand and others four-strand ropes. Surprisingly, the three-strand are stronger than the 4-strand which bend more easily, although both are used in pulleys. Baler twine, cotton yarn or nylon twines can all be made into ropes. It is important to keep proper tension on the strands, and special rope tools are used to guide and keep the strands separated, in line, and smooth. He often uses a hand-cranked 1901 Bucklin machine that can weave three strands of twine into a strong rope.

Formerly, individuals would be recruited to hold the far end of the strands, hopefully



providing just the right amount of tension while Milton turned the crank. That didn't always happen and the result would be a weak and ragged looking rope. Later he devised a portable stand that has a pulley with weights attached to a post. He sets up this stand away from him equal to the distance of the length of his finished

rope. The weights hold the strands with the proper tension and Milton can now make professional looking ropes without assistance. From start to finish, Milton can set up for and complete a 10 foot rope in about five minutes.

He has fascinated people with his rope making craft at the Fall Festival sponsored by the Pella Historical Society, demonstrated for 21 years at the Nelson Pioneer Fall Festival, joined rope makers from 15 or more states in Minnesota, and also demonstrated rope making at Living History farms in Des Moines. Many children are enjoying jumping rope with a rope that they watched Milton make for them at one of these demonstrations. This summer he plans to demonstrate rope making for Boy Scouts in Des Moines.



Thanks for sharing a bit of nostalgia with us, Milton. You have a fascinating hobby.

-Doris Nibbelink



1/2 of Graduating Class Reach 90

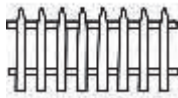
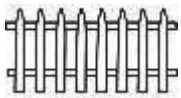
Back in 1932 a class of twelve graduated from the Peoria Christian School. In June, one of those students—Cornie Vander Linden—celebrated his 90th birthday.

What is amazing is that 6 of those original classmates are still alive today—seventy-seven years later. All of them are 90 years old or older.

Congratulations to this very special class!

Those still living are Henry Bennink, Jacob B. Dahm, Cornie Vander Linden, Otto Vos, Chum Deur, and Bertha Roose.

Wouldn't they be able to have a one-of-a-kind reunion celebration!



New Babies in the Area

Jacob Nathaniel born to Dave & Becki Lovell on April 17

Quinten David born to Jayme & Nicki Veenstra on May 5

Margaret Laine born to Randy and Nicole Vos on May 10

Tyson James born to Zach & Carissa Vander Linden on May 19

Hope Olivia Ann born to Megan Rozenboom on May 20

Macy Grace born to Kevin and Marla Vander Hart on July 15

Adalyn born to Trish and Wade Van Dyk on July 27

Congratulations to the new parents and their extended families!



Upcoming Events: November 6 School Supper & Bazaar 5-7 p.m.

November 26 Thanksgiving Service at Peoria Church 9:30 a.m.



Neighbors are much more than just names!
Grab a cup of coffee and enjoy "A Neighbor's Happy Home!"

This nice stately, square house is right along the highway on your way from Peoria to Pella. As you round another curve, you see it at the top of the hill. It was built in 1911, has been upgraded over the years, and is one of the very few homes of that era that was built with an 18 inch cement foundation. In November 2007 the Rozenboom family moved from Pella into this house. They have made it a happy home.

Heidi fell in love with the house right away. She grew up in the country near Melcher-Dallas, having moved there from Ohio when she was in fourth grade. Heidi enjoys life and fills it with taking care of four children and managing the hot lunch program at Peoria Christian School. She used to teach and loves being in the school where two of her children attend. Plus, the two younger children can come along when she serves hot lunch. If there is extra time, Heidi likes to sew, quilt, garden, cook and scrapbook.

Sean likes the house just fine and loves the view to the North. He grew up on a farm near Leighton. After many years of doing yard care, in 2004 the Rozenboom family bought Vander Beek Truck Accessories in Pella. At this after-market specialty store you can have your pickup or camper upgraded. They specialize in spray-on bed liners, hitches, grill guards, running boards, wiring for trailers or campers, plus lots of other things. Just say what you want and Sean will be able to help you out. He works there with his father Larry and his cousin Gary, along with a number of part time employees.

Sean also rents out a 15 passenger van for businesses or churches, he snowplows for a few non-profit organizations, and is also a certified EMT. No wonder they don't eat until 7 or 8 in

the evening! It is interesting that Sean attended six years of college for diesel mechanics and agriculture business management; but he doesn't use any of it now. While in college, he was given the nickname Boomer. You'll have to ask him about that. If a NASCAR race is on television, there is a good chance that Sean will be watching.

How did Heidi and Sean meet? While Heidi was attending Central College, she was an office manager at the High Point Apartments in Pella. Sean was the grounds manager there. They were each provided an apartment to live in, right next to each other. Was it love at first sight? Not really. But they got used to seeing each other so much, that they decided to get married.

The children also make this a happy home. Christian is in eighth grade, Caleb is in first grade, and Carissa is five years old. Cayla was born in January 2008. While I sat in their delightful kitchen and dining area, the kids played together and had a good time. Cayla was smiling, especially as mom was feeding her.

Recently a huge shed was built by their house. Sean says this is just for his father and cousin's big toys.

It's good to have you as neighbors. And as we drive by your place, we'll remember the joy that a happy home is.

-John Gorter



Jim Bandstra & Betty Van Wyk were married on May 30 at her place out in the country on Dakota Drive, northeast of Pella. Jim's brother, Dr. Andrew Bandstra, officiated. Pastor Cornie Van Wyngarden of Lower Grove—Jim's brother-in-law—also participated. Only Jim and Betty's children were in attendance. The reception was held at Monarch's in Pella.



Jim and Betty have known each other for about forty years. (Jim's son Terry married Betty's daughter Lona.) Since both of their spouses had passed away and they knew each other well already, Jim and Betty decided to establish one household. They live at 250 West Street in Peoria.

Weddings

Josh Van Baale & Teresa Sterk were married on June 13 at the Methodist Church in Pella. Rev. Kevin Glesener officiated. He is the chaplain at Vermeer Manufacturing, where both Josh and Teresa work.



Their son Tyler was also in attendance, dressed in a nice suit and given a special necklace to illustrate the unity they all have. The reception was held at the South Overlook by Red Rock Dam.

They live at 135 West Street in Peoria. -John Gorter

The Beekeeper and His Wife

At one time Richland Township was home to an authentic, productive, large apiary. John Valkenburg was the beekeeper and his bee yard (in its heyday close to 100 hives dotting the hillside) was located on an east slope about ¼ mile north of the home where John and Wilma Blom now reside.

My brothers and I (Wilma) have done our best to take a trip down memory lane to write this story. Our memories vary, are sometimes vague, and are for certain "colorful." Hopefully they are more fact than fiction.



John Valkenburg was born in 1889. Pella was his home, and he began his career as a beekeeper right there in the city. How he learned this vocation is a mystery, but we assume he was self-taught. When John was passionate about something, he read extensively on the subject, and

was certainly able to pursue a dream.

His parents' home was very close to where Van Gorp's hatchery was once located (where Hazel and the road heading west into Pella intersect). Even though it was the edge of town, this location did not prevent the honey bees from "dirtying" those white clothes the Dutch ladies hung so proudly on their lines each Monday morning. In no uncer-

-continued on page 4

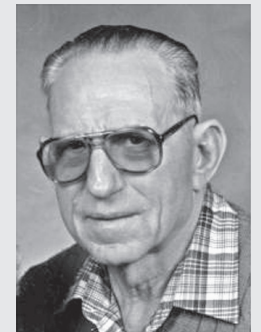
In Celebration and Memory



Cornelia Veenstra was born near Leighton, Iowa, and received her early childhood education at a small country school near her home. In 1940 she was united in marriage with Lambert Veenstra. They made their home on a farm east of Taintor, and over time they became parents to seven children.

Cornelia delighted in caring for her family and being a farmer's wife. She enjoyed baking, gardening, sewing—especially blankets for missions—and crocheting. As her family grew and left home, she was particularly happy when they all came back for dinner on Sundays. She loved her family and her church.

Cornelia was a member of the Peoria Christian Reformed Church where she made profession of faith at an early age. She was also a member of the Ladies Aid group all her adult life. Cornelia passed away just two days short of her ninety-first birthday.



Gerrit Slykhuis was born near Knoxville, Iowa, and attended country grade schools in Marion and Mahaska Counties. In 1945 he joined the Army as a guard patrolman and served in the Philippine Islands until his honorable discharge in 1946. After marrying Wilma Van Zante in 1954, Gerrit and his new wife established a home near New Sharon. They had desires of raising a family, but their only child was stillborn.


Next came a move to Peoria—where Gerrit worked at his repair shop as a blacksmith—and then a final move to Pella in 1972. At that time Gerrit began working at Ring-O-Matic where he was employed until his retirement in 1994. His retirement years were spent tinkering in his shop in Peoria as well as doing woodworking. He also enjoyed gospel music. Gerrit was baptized and made profession of his faith at the Third Reformed Church in Pella. At the time of his death he was a faithful member of the First Reformed Church of Pella and will be remembered as a good Christian man.

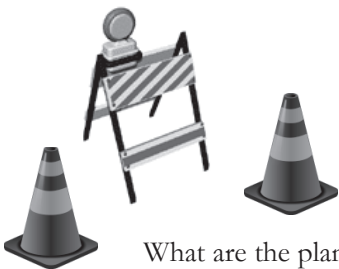


... heard about it on the partyline ...

■ Business Services



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



What are the plans for road work in Richland Township? Jerry Nusbaum—engineer for Mahaska County roads—is requesting county funds for work on highways around here.

Here are projects being proposed for Richland Township:

1. Concrete pavement replacement from the Christian School north to the 2006 paving.
2. Concrete pavement replacement from the south edge of Peoria south approximately 1,000 feet. The pavement will not continue up the hill to the Hwy G5T / T33 intersection.
3. Concrete pavement replacement on Hwy G5T from the Skunk River east to the base of Temptation Hill. Again, the pavement replacement will not continue up Temptation Hill to the G5T / T33 intersection.
4. Asphalt overlay on Hwy G5T from the Galeston Avenue / Hwy G5T intersection west to 500 feet west of Eaton Avenue. The overlay will not continue west to the Hwy G5T / T33 intersection.

The pavement replacement would be made of 9 inch reinforced concrete. The expected life for a concrete pavement is 30 years.

When will these projects be worked on? All are proposed in the second year of the Mahaska County Five Year Construction Plan, which is updated yearly and subject to change dependent on priority and funding. The five year plan must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. If the funding is

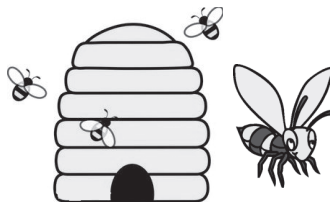
Van Dyke Repair Inc., General repair on tractors and combines. Wayne Van Dyke, 641-625-4146.

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

Peoria Trailer Sales, Dennis Rozenboom 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.



- *Bee Keeper continued*

tain terms John was urged to move his bees elsewhere. After a good deal of scouting (down the Skunk River in a row boat and stopping frequently to check out areas along the river) John felt that a slope just north of the home in which we now live would be a great place for his bees. Bart and Winnie Veldhuizen were owners of the farm at that time, and John did not purchase a parcel of land—he only asked permission to relocate his hives to that area.

John set to work building a large structure that he called a “shop” to hold all of the bee equipment needed—hives, extractor, storage for honey, and tools—to meet the needs of a beekeeper. This building was unfinished on the inside, and the outside was covered with a tar paper that looked like brown/tan bricks on the outside.

He also purchased a few acres along the road just west of our farm where he built a Gordon Van Tine home. Van Tine homes could be ordered through Sears or Montgomery Ward. All that was needed was a foundation and the kit which included all the parts for a new home...along with directions.

John's story continues in the next issue!

Don't miss it. -Wilma Blom



PEORIA PATHWAYS

approved, the projects would probably take place in fiscal year 2011, which begins July 1, 2010.

Mandatory start dates are set by the Iowa Department of Transportation, with county concrete and asphalt projects historically completed later in the year. Mahaska County has attempted to schedule paving projects to avoid conflicts with harvest, but it did not work. The DOT says that if they would allow such scheduling, all counties would schedule accordingly. Counties can pay a bonus to the contractor for definitive timing; but the cost is usually excessive.

Jerry is not sure what to do about the pavement in Peoria itself. At the low corner there is a problem with drainage, and if work would start, how would the residents gain access to their homes? Jerry's number one concern is safety—how to keep traffic driving slowly through the village. Perhaps we could let some big potholes develop and stay in place! (Just a bad joke by the reporter.)

You have probably noticed the yellow flashers in the area. Of 23 in the state, 16 are in Mahaska County. They work well and have been especially helpful in bad weather, warning people of an upcoming intersection. The yellow flasher in Peoria is the only programmable one in the state. It can be programmed to match the school year.

Thank you, Jerry, for your conscientious work for the county. We are grateful for the privilege of driving on such fine roads.

-John Gorter