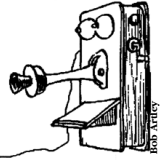


# Peoria Partyline



connecting the extended Peoria community

Volume 6. No. 3

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## Short n' Long of it ...

- Pg. 1..... Quality Quail
- Pg. 2..... Terry Bandstra
- Pg. 2..... Coming Events
- Pg. 2..... Babies
- Pg. 2..... Bazaar
- Pg. 3..... Plane Crash
- Pg. 3..... Frost Boils
- Pg. 4..... New Neighbors

Construction Update  
Page 3



New Home  
Page 4



## 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](mailto:peoria.ia.news@hotmail.com)  
Online issue: [www.peoriacrc.org](http://www.peoriacrc.org)

## Quality Quail for Sale

On a daily basis, many of us drive right by a very interesting and thriving business right here in Richland Township. The most alert may notice the sign, "Quail for Sale," but who has ever stopped to check it out? I made a point of doing just that, and what an interesting time I had.

Jerry and Nancy Van Wyk's Bob White Quail operation began with a simple conversation with an avid bird hunter at Jerry's work. "He said there was not a bountiful supply of pheasants and quails for hunters," recalls Jerry, "and he asked if I would consider raising them."



*Four different sized eggs are in this incubator: (left to right in front carton) wild turkey, chicken, pheasant, and quail.*

"My answer," continued Jerry "included a basic business plan." A plan that included this strategy: "you buy them, I'll feed them, and then—when you want to use my birds for hunting—you'll pay me so much per bird."

"The first year we raised only 50 birds," said Jerry. "That was 15 years ago. Now we raise about 4000 quail and 1000 pheasants each year. We sell the birds to both hunting clubs and individuals."

Nancy's side of the business includes 40 laying hens that produce about 14 dozen eggs a week. "I sell to individuals," she says, "and yes, I do deliver." Excess eggs—from

peak production—are brought to Fairhaven and the Food Shelf.

Raising the birds is a very time-intensive, complicated process. Most of the quail and pheasant chicks in their buildings are purchased, but due to various reasons some of those do die. Thus the need for Nancy and Jerry to incubate a number of their own chicks as well—to compensate for those lost—or to try their hand at incubating other varieties of eggs (such as wild turkey)



*New chicks are kept in close quarters, under a heat bulb, for 3 weeks after hatching.*

which someone gave them this year. Three times per year—in May, July, and late August—one-day-old chicks arrive on the farm from different hatcheries. Down in the basement their own incubators (which gently rock) are also stocked so that chicks will hatch about every 23 days. The eggs are rotated out of the incubators on a weekly basis to the hatcher—stationary racks—so the chicks won't be crushed after they come out of the eggs.



*Several quail enjoy some time outdoors in the grass on a warm summer day.*

From the hatcher, the small chicks (and new outside arrivals) are put into a 5 ½ foot ring with a heat bulb and bedding. They are kept at 98-100 degrees for the first week with a drinker and egg cartons for feeders.

At about week three Jerry opens the ring so the chicks have more movement, and around 8-9 weeks the doors are opened to the flight

*-continued on page 3*



## Upcoming Events

- November 5 Peoria school Bazaar and Auction.
- November 25 Thanksgiving worship service at the Peoria church, 9:30 a.m.
- December 25 Christmas service at the Peoria church, 9:30 a.m.
- January 2 New Year's service at the Peoria church, 9:30 a.m.

Danica Anna was born to Joshua and Teresa Van Baale on June 30. She weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. and big brother Tyler (8) thinks she's pretty special.

Ethan and Heather Vander Leest were blessed with a new baby on May 18—Eli Nicolas Vander Leest. He weighed 5 lbs. and 14 oz. and siblings Zeke (7), Aiden (5), and Lily (3) were excited to welcome him home.



Craig and Angie Wittenberg were blessed with a new baby girl—Ketziah Elizabeth—born on June 16 and weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz. No doubt her eight siblings are more than eager to help love and care for their new sister.

## Peoria Bazaar and Auction



November 5

- ◆ Bake sale starting at 3:00 pm
  - ◆ Supper 5:00-6:30 pm
  - ◆ Auction 7:00 pm
- Theme: Peoria's African Safari

## Terry Bandstra—a “Cut Above”

As a rookie on the Peoria Partyline team, I'm pleased to be able to share a bit about Terry Bandstra. He and Marilee are the only charter team members left after nearly 7 years. In addition, I am lucky to share a branch on the same family tree with Terry. Though I've heard many “Terry stories” throughout the years, most of them will remain unwritten—much to Terry's relief!

Born to James and Tena (Van Wyngarden) Bandstra—near Taintor, Iowa—Terry moved to his childhood home in Peoria at the tender age of one. His years as a lad were spent in and around Peoria and Pella where he attended the Peoria Chr. Grade School as well as the Pella Community High School.

After high school Terry headed to Marshalltown Junior College. He married his “better half” (Lona Van Wyk) following his first year of school. Then—with junior college complete—Terry and Lona headed to Iowa State University in Ames where Terry earned a degree in Farm Operations. Following graduation he was employed for three years as a Research Associate. “It was a job in which I pulled a lot of weeds,” he says.

In 1975 Terry and Lona moved “back home” to a farm once owned by Lewis De Vries located due north of the Peoria Christian Grade School. To this day it is their home. During these years they also welcomed 3 children into their home: Matt, Katie and Jennie Jo.

In 2006 Terry made a jog in the road as a full time farmer. His daughter, Jennie, took a Certified Nursing Assistant course and Terry became aware of how such nursing skills could be helpful in the care of his mother who had been disabled by several strokes. He chose to enroll in a CNA course himself. It gave him the confidence and

ability to care for his mother and provide support for his father who had been Tena Mae's main caretaker for many, many years.

After receiving his nursing certification, Terry also began working at Pella's Long Term Care Unit. In 2006 he moved to Home Health Care—an area in which he currently works. His schedule now finds him working two afternoons a week, a few evenings here and there, and in the Comfort House on occasion.

It is no surprise that when asked what he does in his spare time, Terry just chuckles. Although he and Lona are now “empty nesters” they are also the proud grandparents of seven grandchildren. So it doesn't take long before he answers, “Grandkids.” One young grandson has a standing invitation to



spend Fridays at the farm. “And he can come up with some really tough questions,” says Terry. “Such as, ‘Grandpa, why do you call them square bales when they're really rectangles?’”

Terry considers his life to be the best of both worlds. He loves the outdoors—so he farms. He loves interaction with people—so, as a home health provider, he cares for those needing his help.

The Peoria Partyline benefits from Terry's easy going nature and his ability to find out what's going on in Richland Township in a friendly unassuming way. Thanks for that, Terry!

Lastly, Terry up close and personal... When it's time for a haircut most of us are concerned about the style or cost. Not Terry. He seeks out a barber he can needle and harass a bit—expecting a little of the same in return. It's even better if coffee and cookies are available. Whether he gets a good cut or not is unknown; however, what is known is that Terry is definitely a “cut above.”

-Wilma Blom

*A clean conscience makes a soft pillow.*

### -Quails continued

pens. These pens have netting about 8-14 feet high because—depending on the type of bird—within a week the birds will start flying. The quail are ready to sell at 12 weeks old. The pheasants can go to their new homes at 20 weeks.

The birds begin with a very fine starter feed so they don't activate their gizzards. Then, when bigger, a sand tray is put in so they can eat less expensive, regular, ground feed. The birds—especially the quail—enjoy the sand for baths as well.

Managing the birds' health is very challenging because of their size and confinement. "They are very delicate and easily exposed to stress and disease," said Jerry. "We



*This pheasant looks like he's almost ready to go to his new home.*

experience about a 12% death loss due to diseases—such as black leg, coxidi-osis, and respiratory problems—and extreme weather temperatures." Medication is given through the feed and water. After 12 weeks the birds are wormed.

When I asked Jerry what was the best part about raising his birds, he had a ready answer. "At any given time I can go to the door or window and hear them making noise or calling," he said. "I also enjoy having them ride around on my shoes."

The disadvantages he mentions are "being tied down," and that the birds are a "varmint magnet" drawing coyotes, raccoons, possums, cats, and skunks who eat the eggs and little birds.

"Our business has increased with little advertisement," says Jerry. "The best response comes from word of mouth." And don't forget about your sign along the highway I remind him. That's what brought me here! -Sharon Blom

## A Plane Crash in Our Township?



Someone found this picture of a plane that crashed just north-east of the Peoria school and church on Terry Bandstra's or Westerkamp's land in the 50's. Does any one know anything about this event? If so, please get in contact with the Peoria Partyline team so we can share the details with our readers in a future issue!

## Township Roads Still a-Boilin'

Anyone traveling in Richland township this spring could not—even with heroic driving skills—avoid the upheavals, soggy spots, ruts, and potholes on our roads that seemed determined to slow down, swallow or disable our vehicles. In fact we've witnessed a bumper crop of what engineers call "frost boils."



Exactly what causes these boils? The more severe the winter, the deeper the frost layer. Spring thaw starts from the top down, which leaves a waterlogged layer of mud suspended over a barrier

layer of frost and ice. The top layer then acts as insulation—keeping the icy layer (further down) from thawing. Gravity draws moisture from the road surface downward, but the barrier prevents any drainage. The trapped water has no where to go, and with changes in temperature and precipitation it rises and falls—causing "boils."

If the base of a road is frost susceptible—such as clay, sand or topsoil—boils show up more often. According to Jerry Nusbaum (Mahaska County Engineer), our ancestors created roads with whatever soil was readily available. That creates problems for us today. "There are some things we can do to fix the base," he says, "but it is expensive. It can help to remove the base and put rock in it, but usually we opt for putting bigger sized rock in the soft spots and then overlay it with road stone." The road stone is supposed to "seal" the area and keep water from seeping down into it. For excessively bad spots there is the option of tiling to lower the water table.

"We could eliminate the problem if we put down 6 inches of gravel over all the rock roads," Nusbaum continues, "but with over 800 miles of gravel in our county, that would cost over 40 million dollars—which is considerably more than the budget will allow!" Mahaska County has put on more than 300,000 tons of gravel over the last two years.

Other things that compound the problem include: heavy vehicles (which collapse the top layer and make soft spots), shallow ditches (which prevent trapped water from draining away), and incorrectly shaped roads (if a road isn't crowned properly, surface water pools).

How did the old timers try to handle frost boils? The  
*-continued on page 4*



With Hwy 63 currently undergoing construction, is there hope for similar attention for G5T which comes from New Sharon through our township towards Pella?

Jerry Nusbaum reports that a contract has been awarded to Norris Asphalt, Ottumwa, for an asphalt overlay on this highway from Galeston Ave. to just west of Eaton Ave. Work should be done before the end of the year.



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

### ■ Business Services



**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 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.

### *-Frost Boils continued*

late Earl Boyd—a long time Mahaska county worker—told Warren Van Wyngarden that years ago the road crews would use dynamite in soft spots. The hope was it would break the frozen ground and allow it to drain. Jerry couldn't remember this being done but he did say that some counties would bore a hole in the soft spot and put salt in it to try to thaw the ice. "That never proved to be very successful, though," he said.



"If the problem seems worse the last few years, it may be because of all the wet weather we have had," added Jerry. "In 2009 Oskaloosa tied with Webster City as the wettest city in Iowa. As of June this year, Oskaloosa was either the third or fourth wettest city." The wetter it is, the more frost boils show up.

-Terry Bandstra & Marilee Vander Wal

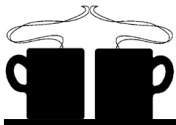
## New Home Under Construction

For those who look around while driving to Pella, did you notice the construction going on across from Howard Renaud's farm? Word is Luke and Jodi Flory—Gary and Linda Steenhoek's daughter and son-in-law—are putting up a new home there. The young couple had been living in Colorado but moved back a couple of years ago. Luke helps Gary farm and is self-employed as a carpenter. He plans on building their house himself (as much as possible). They have two children. "Welcome," ahead of time, new neighbors!



### I've learned:

- That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
- That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.
- That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.



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

In February, the house at 1276 Cordova was occupied by a new family named Vroegh (rhymes with through). Mike, Jen and children switched places with the Rozenboom family, who moved to the Vroeghs' rental house south of Pella. This has been a journey in which they felt God directing them.

Mike grew up on a farm near Pleasantville, where he went to school. He attended Central College, where he played baseball and earned a degree in General Studies with an emphasis in business and communication. For the past nine years he has been working at Nationwide/Allied Insurance in Des Moines. There, Mike works in the claims department which handles the Midwest region from Minnesota to Texas. Yes, he commutes every day, but it is worthwhile to be able to live close to relatives and in such a nice setting.

While going to Central College Mike met Jen Rus, a girl from Pella. Jen attended the Christian schools in Pella, and attended classes at William Penn for two years. After getting married, they lived in Pella for three years before moving to Bondurant, north of Altoona, to be closer to Mike's work. Then they moved back to the Pella area to be closer to

relatives. Now they are settling down on a hill in the country.

Jen worked for her dad at the Rus Oil Company until they had their first baby. Now she helps her mom occasionally at Camp Creation near Pella, which provides a nature center for children. Jen is a stay-at-home mom for three children, two boys and a girl. Hudson is five years old; he will attend pre-K next year. Gavin is two years old; he is maintaining well the reputation of two-year-olds. Jovi will turn a year old in September; she is a happy toddler. Mike and Jen are conscientious about investing time into their children.

Mike and Jen enjoy the country life. They enjoy relaxing and spending time outdoors. A path has been mowed on their acreage for Jen to take walks. And they deeply appreciate their neighbors.

It is good to have you in the neighborhood. We hope you continue to enjoy this area for a long time. -John Gorter

