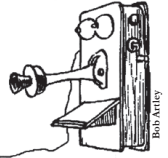


# Peoria Partyline



... connecting the extended Peoria community

Volume 8. No. 2

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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 submissions:

[peoria.ia.news@hotmail.com](mailto:peoria.ia.news@hotmail.com)

Online issue: [www.peoriacr.org](http://www.peoriacr.org)

## Longhorns a Local Novelty

Whenever people pass the cattle grazing just west of the Peoria cemetery, inevitably their eyes are drawn to the animals' horns. They are a sight one doesn't normally see in these parts. They are also what drew in Gordon Foster six years ago. "I became interested in the novelty of the horns on the Texas Longhorns," he said. "Did you know that there are five different types of horns within the breed?" It's true. Some grow almost straight out, while others grow with a corkscrew twist. Others go out and then bend up, some out and down, and occasionally some grow up or down and then back out. The record length (measured from tip to tip) is said to be nine feet across.



"I turned my interest into reality when my wife Faye and I went down to a sale of Longhorns in Missouri," said Gordon. "We bought two six-month-old heifer calves. Then later, we went back down and bought a nine-month-old bull calf."

With the calves purchased, the Fosters have been able to produce three of the five types of horns. "We've been raising calves now for several years," continued Gordon, "and we sell the calves to local individuals who want to use them for roping practice."

Texas Longhorns are a breed that stay in great shape just by eating grass—they don't need any grain, and are very hardy. That's why they were popular back in the 1800's in

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## God's Littlest Angels: My Journey

This past fall, I traveled to the beautiful country of Haiti. WOW! What an experience! I went to be a blessing; but I came away the one so incredibly blessed.

Back in middle school, Jesus placed within my heart a desire to simply love little orphans. In the spring of 2011, He began to open up an opportunity for me to do that very thing in Haiti. In September, I traveled with my good friend, Rachel Wiley, to an orphanage called God's Littlest Angels (GLA).

GLA is a Christian, American-run orphanage residing in the mountains above Port Au Prince and it currently cares for 110 children—ranging from newborn to 13 years old. Many of the children were brought in by one or both of their biological parents. Due to the economic plight in Haiti, these families are simply not able to care for their children, and, because they love their children, they see GLA as a way to give their children a better future. Thanks to God, that hope is real. GLA is providing over three hundred children with school sponsorships for the 2011-2012 school year, medical assistance to very ill premature babies, and a safe, healthy environment to older teens that have no family. They beautifully care for all these precious children.



Taylor giving orphans her love.

The children at GLA are taught in both Creole and English; loved by the sweet nannies and staff; fed and clothed; and most importantly, taught about their Heavenly Father. But all the physical care does not compare to the blessing of being a part of a family. Please be in prayer for these children: that they may be blessed with forever families soon.

God's Littlest Angels has a volunteer

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

The Flory family was more than happy to answer some questions of mine. The first was, "Who moved into the new house at 1251 Highway 102, at the end of August?" So I called and stopped by for a visit. Let me introduce them to you.

Luke Flory was born in Anamosa, but his family moved to Pella when he was young. After graduating from Pella Community High, he did construction work and attended Northwest Missouri State, majoring in Ag Business. Luke is now a part-time builder and a part-time farmer with his father-in-law. He built their entire house himself—with help from family and friends—and he enjoys hunting. Last fall a buck was walking on the pond dike down from their house. He noticed it, circled around, and shot the buck with a bow from the ground level!

Jodi grew up nearby too. Her parents are Gary and Linda Steenhoek and her father farmed the land they built their house on. Jodi remembers playing with neighbor kids by the creek, which flows near their house, and she also helped plant a lot of the trees that are now a part of their property. Jodi also enjoyed being part of the Richland Rustlers, a local 4-H club. After graduating from Pella Community High, she attended the University of Iowa with a major in geography—a major that gave her the opportunity to enter the growing field of Geographic Information Systems.

Jodi's work answered another question of mine. "Who does the background work in redistricting after census counts?" Answer: People like Jodi! She puts together information on populations and changing demographics. She explained how Iowa is a national model on how to change congressional and legislative districts without a lot of political rancor. Now she works

remotely for the state of Colorado, as well as keeping zoning maps and street maps updated. Jodi also likes to relax and read.

Luke and Jodi were classmates in high school. They lived in Rhode Island for a while—for Jodi's work—and eventually moved to Colorado. Why Colorado? To snow ski! Luke built a house near the continental divide, at 10,000 feet in elevation. They both worked in their areas of specialty there, and they spent a lot of time snow skiing. Luke even taught it for a while. But they missed family and moved back to Iowa a few years ago.

Luke and Jodi have been blessed with two children. Kaitlyn is five years old and enjoys pre-K. Nicholas is an active two-year-old. They are expecting their third child in June. The children enjoy playing outside and on the wraparound deck of the house. As a family they enjoy the outdoors and walking... and snow skiing whenever they can. And they all love their dog Charlie. They attend Third Reformed Church in Pella.

What is that hand pump doing in the field near their driveway? That is where the Warren country school house used to be.

If you have more questions, maybe you could ask the Florys. They are very nice people. It is good to have you as neighbors, Luke and Jodi!

-John Gorter



## Night Landing

On Sunday, April 1, around 10 p.m., several Lower Grove neighbors heard a helicopter that seemed to be unusually low. "Curious, we stepped outside," said Dennis and Suzy Veenstra, "and although it was dark, we could see it land in a bean field between the Klyn and Jansen homes—on top of a hill, near the road. Soon after it landed, all the lights went off." When no emergency vehicles arrived, they realized that something was wrong.

Suzy quickly drove towards the site, and was flagged down by the pilot who was standing on the road with a flashlight. "He thought I was the Sheriff," said Suzy, "and I asked him if he needed any help." Calmly he stated that a main alarm—which monitors the transmission—had gone off. He had no other choice but to set the machine down. "I just took off from the Pella ER," he said, "and was headed to Iowa City with a patient. When the alarm sounded, I used night vision goggles to find a safe place to land." Fortunately the patient was stable and another Life Flight from Mercy, in Des Moines, was on its way.

"Then he began to ask about buildings or other hazards in the area that he could relay to the second helicopter," said Suzy, "and when the Sheriff arrived, they discussed using his lights

to signal the other pilot." Then everyone waited in the dark for the rest of the story to unfold.

Around 10:40 p.m. everyone heard the second helicopter approaching. It circled the area with a large spot light and then landed very close to the first one. The patient was transferred and in no time that chopper lifted off for Iowa City.

The Jansens had been watching all of this drama as well. "Soon after the second chopper left," said Geneva, "the first pilot and the Sheriff stopped by our farm to ask for permission to drive through our field, with a mechanic." Once on the scene the mechanic made some adjustments, the helicopter was cleared to fly back to its base in Knoxville, KCCI News and The Peoria Partyline had an interesting story to tell, and by 11:30 p.m. the sleepy little community of Lower Grove was allowed to go off to bed in peace and quiet.

-Dennis and Suzy Veenstra  
-Lilburn and Geneva Jansen

## In Loving Memory

**Edward Van't Sant** grew up in this area, attended the Warren and Flint Ridge country schools, and graduated from Pella High. He served in the Army for seven years before marrying Wilma and raising four children

- Continued on page 4

program to “love on” the little ones. Each volunteer that comes to GLA is matched with four to five babies. During my stay I was matched with five precious babies.

Each weekday, I spent several hours with each of my babies. During those hours, I would work on development, read, cuddle, play, and simply love and connect with each little angel. Babies need physical touch and lots of priceless one-on-one time—we volunteers were there to do just that.

Along with wonderful baby time, I used my evenings and weekends to play with the older children. What joyful, fun-loving kids! They take delight in any measure of love given. Often I’d have a few 3-year-olds fighting for turns on my lap. It was a privilege to hold and kiss such darling children. I often wonder about their stories—and how God is going to continue to write the story of their lives. What a great God He is!

I was also able to spend a few days at the future site of GLA doing manual labor. Currently, the orphanage is composed of two compounds—one mile apart—that separate the older and younger children. The future four-acre campus will bring everyone together.

Jesus taught me a lot while spending three months in Haiti. I learned the beauty of another culture and the extraordinary joy among a people that have so little. I saw God do miracles in very ill, premature babies—and the beauty and importance of prayer through that. I learned so much. May He be glorified!

If you have an interest in volunteering at this orphanage, go online to [godslittlestangelsinhaiti.org](http://godslittlestangelsinhaiti.org)

-Taylor Roose

### *- Longhorns continued*

Texas. They could survive on sage brush and endure drought. They also have small calves which can prove helpful when interbreeding for ease of calving. The meat is leaner than today’s beef, but Gordon doesn’t think they will regain their popularity because the horns can cause problems in the feedlot.

“I’ve enjoyed my Longhorns,” said Gordon, “but the cost of hay and choring in the winter is taking its toll. If I have my way, they’ll be gone by next winter so I will have time for other hobbies.”

-Terry Bandstra

## Crop Dusting a Service From the Sky

One of the most exciting shows of summer involves the powerful planes which go roaring over our homes to dip down and spray nearby fields. It brings adults to the window and kids running outside to wave and watch. Chances are most of those planes belong to Ron Lowry, who owns the Lowry Flying Service in Grinnell. He has been crop dusting for over 30 years and now owns five spray planes.

During the peak of the spraying season, Ron will have eight to ten people working for him. Besides the pilots, he has a ground crew responsible for a ready supply of water, chemicals, and fuel for the aircraft. Generally limited to spraying within a 50-mile radius from Grinnell, his team can also go to nearby airports to fill the spray tanks. Even though the Vander Wal airport has been closed for years, Ron can still remember using it when spraying in the New Sharon area.

The smallest plane Ron has is a 300 horsepower bi-wing that can carry 250 gallons of water. It sprays at 100 to 110 miles an hour. This is the plane for rookies because it is relatively slow. His biggest plane is a single-wing radial that has a 780 horsepower engine. It can carry 500 gallons of water and sprays at 130 to 135 miles an hour.

All the planes use the same nozzle system which is just a stream of spray that is deflected. The nozzles can be rotated to increase or decrease the amount of deflection—which changes the particle size from coarse to fine—depending on what is being sprayed. The sprayer pump is powered by fan blades which turn as the plane flies and the spraying width is between 70 and 75 feet. Usually weed spray is coarse and fungicides are finer. Most sprays use two gallons of water per acre but some require up to five gallons.

When Ron started his career as a duster, flagmen were used to hold up a flag to show the pilot where he needed to fly. Then dusters went to a paper system, which—according to Ron—was toilet paper attached to a piece of cardboard in a dispenser on the wing. The pilot would hit a button and a piece of marking paper would fall out showing where he had already sprayed. Now all the planes use GPS.

Aerial application—another name for crop dusting—is above all a service. And it is a growing industry. The planes can spread fertilizer, insecticides, fungicide, and weed killers. They can also be equipped with a spreader which lets them apply Urea (nitrogen) to corn—just

before it tassels—to boost yield, or seed rye in a standing crop for farmers who want a cover crop.

Ron’s pilots are between 30 and 60 years old, but nationally the average age is 58. Crop dusters are experts at navigating by sight and have cultivated a natural feel for what the plane is doing. Some learned to fly while in the military. Understandably they are also professionals drawn to the industry because of a love for the thrill of low-altitude flying and precise maneuvers.

So, the next time you hear the characteristic sound of a crop duster doing its job in our township, take the time to watch an expert at work. And give a big wave to thank the pilot for his service from the sky.

-Terry Bandstra and Marilee VW



*L-R: A pilot/maintenance man and owner Ron.*



*The nozzles that deflect the spray.*



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

## ■ Business Services



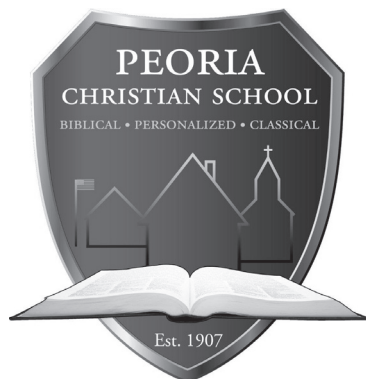
**Van Dyke Repair Inc.,**  
General repair on tractors and combines. Wayne Van Dyke, 641-625-4146.

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

**Flory Construction,** New construction, remodels, additions, and decks. Call Luke, 641-629-0357 or 625-4240.

## ■ For Sale

**For Sale:** Hand-crafted gifts, deck furniture, quilt racks, windmills, and many other things. 625-4148, 1219 Hwy 102 (road to Pella).



625.4131 [www.peoriachr.org](http://www.peoriachr.org)

**KAL Recycling** will now take ANY/ALL clean plastic containers—including lids! Bring all your recyclables to the Numark building in Peoria early in the morning on the first and third Saturdays of the each month. Place by the NW corner of the building for pick up.



Would you like to travel around the world in 4 days? You are invited to join our kids at Peoria CRC as we "visit" missionaries in Haiti, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Nigeria, and Papua New Guinea. Through the Bible stories of Abraham, Jonah, Paul, and the Great Commission, we will also learn more about God's covenant, His saving power, and His love for all nations.

Join in our adventures, Bible stories, games, singing, snacks, and Crafts.

Visit [www.peoriacrc.org](http://www.peoriacrc.org) and click on the link to register your child ages 4—through those who have just completed 6th grade—or by contacting Helen De Jong at 637-4332 or Suzy Veenstra at 625-4166.

Older kids—and kids at heart—who would like to help with crafts, games, lessons, or snacks, please contact Suzy Veenstra. If you are needing transportation, please let us know that as well.



Hope to see you July 10-13 each morning from 8:30 - 11:30 at Peoria CRC's Vacation Bible School! We will have a short program Friday, July 13 at 6:30 p.m. followed by a community Hog Roast at 7 p.m. All are welcome.



\* Jeremy and Glenda Van Wyk were blessed with the birth of a new baby girl—Gracyn Lee—on April 25. She weighed 9 lbs and 15 oz. and was 22 inches long. Big sister Gillian isn't quite sure what to think of her yet.

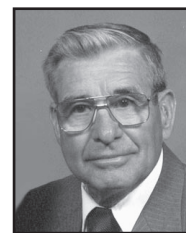


- ▶ **May 28:** Memorial Day Service at the Peoria Cemetery, 9 a.m.
- ▶ **July 10-13:** Vacation Bible School at the Peoria church, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- ▶ **July 13:** Community Hog Roast, Peoria church, 7 p.m.



## *-In Memory continued*

on the farm. Many lessons were learned, not taught, by his example and his favorite place was their home where he enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren. His hobbies included hunting, tractor pulling and collecting, and toy tractor restoration. His pride and joy was his 880 Oliver tractor. He was attending Lower Grove church but was baptized in the Peoria church. You'll be missed, Ed!



**Fred De Nooy** was born and raised near Peoria, and married his wife Goldie at her home near Peoria.

Fred entered the United States Army and served honorably for several years during WWII. After an honorable discharge, he and Goldie were blessed with five children as they pursued farming. Later he trucked for Peoria Stockyards. After moving to Pella, Fred worked at Ring-O-Matic, Midwest Sanitation, and the Super Car Wash.

Fred loved God and served Him faithfully. He will be remembered by many.