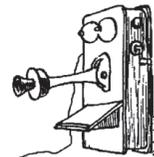


Peoria Partyline



connecting the extended Peoria community

Volume 5. No. 1
March 2009

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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?

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Helen De Jong:
641-637-4332

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submissions:

peoria-ia-news@hotmail.com
Online issue: www.peoriacrc.org

China Trip an Exciting Adventure

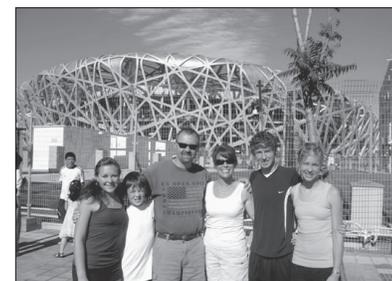
Last summer the Bouwkamp family took in a six-week adventure to China. That's a world away from their home here and we knew their adventure would make a good front page story. So here's the story as told by them:

It takes about 14 hours from Chicago to Beijing and after the long flight we were ready to do some walking around. Getting around in Beijing proved to be a challenge with four children. Taxis would only take four people, a car was not available, and the government had just ordered half of the cars off the road for the Olympics. We tried traveling with two kids in one taxi, and two kids and LeAnn in another, but after the older two kids got lost for 45 minutes, we resorted to taking the subway system so we could all ride together. Most cities in China are quite safe, punishment is swift and harsh, thus the crime rate is low.

Grocery shopping was an experience! We had two choices: the more "Western" style (expensive) grocery stores—with lots of imported items—or the markets along the streets—selling everything from turtles to scorpions. The first few weeks we tried the markets. It sounded fun, but realizing that we couldn't bargain in Chinese, and watching a little boy urinate right next to a fruit stand, changed our minds in a hurry. There was a Super Wal-Mart about 6 blocks from our apartment. We tried that a couple of times, but it felt like being in the frenzy of Christmas shopping every time we went. Hundreds of young Chinese girls with cordless microphones were trying to sell something, and the noise was overwhelming.

Our 34-story apartment building was very nice. We stayed on the 16th floor, with a very nice view of the city (on clear days). In the lobby area—as typical of many such buildings—there were a couple of restaurants, a Chinese massage place, a beauty salon, and a small convenience store. Out back there was a small "green" space where Benjamin could run around. Not too appropriate for playing baseball though. The boys spent many hours playing ping pong in the apartment building, and there was a very nice indoor pool too. In Beijing all recreation and public spaces have to be rented. To play tennis, basketball or soccer one must call ahead to one of the parks and get a time—plus pay a hefty rental fee. This obviously has to do with the sheer number of people in China.

We called our first week there our "modern week." We visited Daryl's work, a village out in the country, the Olympic area, the Silk Market, and found out that we loved Beijing (Peking) Duck. We were also blessed to be able to attend an international church. Worshipping with Christians from all over the world was an awesome experience.



Stopping for a family photo in front of the Olympic "Bird's Nest."

-continued on page 3



Peoria Partyline Goes International

Did you know that the Peoria Partyline's popularity extends to the Republic of Macedonia—a former province of Yugoslavia? John Gorter's high school friend, Ilija Siskov, enjoys reading each new issue via the Peoria CRC website.

Wonder how many other international "happy customers" our little paper has?

A Murder in Lower Grove? (Part 1)

When looking over the hills and valleys of Richland Township, with its quiet village of Peoria and bustling farmsteads scattered in-between, it is hard to imagine this area as anything but peaceful. But at one time Iowa was considered the frontier, and the establishment of law and order often arrived several years after the first settlers.

In those days Richland Township was somewhat distant from its larger, "civilized" neighbors nearby. It was often viewed as a rough-and-tumble neighborhood—in fact the Peoria store owner had been heard instructing his driver to carry a gun for his protection while making deliveries. As it was said, "Peoria was rough, but Lower Grove was rougher!"

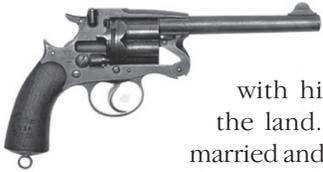
In 1856 a man by the name of Elliot C. Jones began to hear of many families who were leaving Ohio to move west—to a new area called Iowa—and in particular Mahaska County. One of those moving included the Spain family whose Theodrick platted the town of Peoria in 1853.

The good news, trickling in from former neighbors, must have prompted Elliot to move as well. In September of 1855—likely still living in Ohio and therefore sight unseen—he purchased an 80-acre tract of land in the south part of Richland Township from



the U. S. government. This parcel is now part of the Ed & Wilma VantSant farm. In time he arrived

with his wife Sallie and 6 children to settle the land. Later his oldest daughter—who had married and started a family in Ohio—also moved to Richland Township.



Unfortunately these prosperous and happy times were soon to take a turn for the worse. A story came out in the Oskaloosa Weekly Herald on July 25, 1867 that reported the following:

"We hear rumors of a horrible tragedy which occurred in the north part of the county, but have not the full particulars. A son of Mr. Jones, becoming tired of parental restraint ran away from home, and after awhile returned—but unlike the 'prodigal,' his heart was filled with bitterness instead of repentance.

One day, shortly after his return, his father ordered him to do some trivial job, and he refused. When the father started

toward him to enforce his command the son drew a revolver and told him not to lay hands upon him or he would shoot him. Upon this Mr. Jones turned to leave, the boy fired, and he inflicted a dangerous and fatal wound.

The wounded man died about midnight Tuesday night, but left depositions which implicate the whole family in the murder. It appears that there has never been the tranquility in the family and in order to secure protection in his old age the victim had deeded his farm to his son-in-law. That had roused the ire of the rest of the family, and the victim deposed that recently he had been followed by his sons with the intention of taking his life, and that a short time ago he even had poison administered to him in mush.

He swears that on the day of the murder it was all arranged to provoke an attack from him and then shoot him as if in self-defense. The boy had a load of hay in his arms and was cursing when the father took a piece of brush to correct him with. The boy dropped the hay revealing the fact that he had a cocked revolver in his hands which he fired with the result above mentioned.

The old man staggered and fell, and the boy fled to the brush but soon returned with an older brother. This was only about 50 yards from the house, and the old man called the women—his wife and daughter—to come to his aid, but they turned a deaf ear to his cries, and left him where he had fallen. He entreated his son-in-law, who had witnessed the whole scene, to aid him, but he too refused. Finally his married daughter ran across the cornfield and told some neighbors who came and took proper care of him.

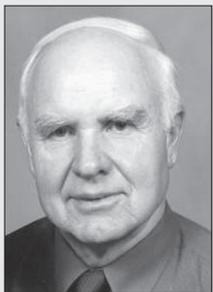
He refused to be taken to the house, and was made as comfortable as possible in the grove, where he remained until death closed his sufferings."

Next issue, Part 2, the aftermath of this event, and what the New York Times had to say about it.

-Calvin Bandstra



We Will Miss You, Stan



Stan Pothoven was born on the family farm near Peoria, Iowa where he was raised and lived his entire life. He attended the Peoria Christian Grade School, Pella Christian High School and one year at Central College before enlisting in the Army reserves. He was there for just six months before he had to return to help with the farm because his father died.

In 1968 Stan married Marcia Vogelaar and they took over the farm. Stan loved his family very much and was especially proud of his sons. He also loved farming and was especially proud to see his farm become a century farm.

While farming, Stan worked for a time at the feed mill in Peoria, as well as for Cargill. He loved his dogs and sprint car racing. He was always ready and willing to help whenever and wherever it was needed—a very loving husband, father, and brother, as well as a good friend and neighbor.

Donations

The Peoria Partyline is starting its 5th year! Can you believe it?

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)

It's the Size of the Toys

Have you ever passed through Peoria when Gerald Rozenboom has his yellow Minneapolis Moline tractors parked outside? It's quite a display.

When Gerald was a kid, his family farmed with M & M tractors. As with most of us, things from his youth cause some nostalgia. In 1995, while traveling in Minnesota, Gerald spotted a model "R" M & M tractor along the road with a "For Sale" sign on it. He stopped and bought it on the spot. His brother Marv later went back to haul it home. That was the start of his collection.

Gerald collects and restores what he calls "the world's finest tractors"—although others may not agree! He now owns 10 tractors of various models. Photos of those tractors decorate their den.

Some of his tractors he located while driving, others came from auctions, an ad, or from word of mouth. He has done all the mechanical work needed to repair his antiques, but when they are ready to paint, he lets others do that detailing.

Gerald's favorite tractor is his model UB, which he has taken on twelve tractor rides. Eight of those were WHO annual three-day rides and 4 were with the Red Rock Threshers who do two-day rides. The food, fun, and fellowship of the rides are high-lights. Gerald states, "You can sure see more of the country when you're traveling at 12 miles an hour and sitting up high than you do when traveling in a car." His wife Geneva also enjoys the rides—watching the tractors take off, and then joining her friends in shopping and going out to eat. She also appreciates the time when he is working on his tractors as she laughingly says, "It gives him something to do and gets him out of my hair for a while."



Gerald's grandchildren help display his collection.

Gerald also enjoys using his G1000 Pulling tractor in the area. "It's hard to keep that tractor under the 3 mph speed limit though," he says, "because of its powerful engine."

One of the most unique uses Gerald found for his tractors was pulling his granddaughter Alicia and all their wedding party on a decorated hayrack from the church to the reception site. They decided against riding around the Pella square though. Too bad! I would like to have seen that.

Gerald's tractor collection and some of his rides have been featured in "The MM Corresponder," a national magazine for MM tractors. Although he has been featured nationally, he says we can still call him Gerald.

"My tractors take alot of time to restore but also give lots of pleasure in the process," says Gerald. If the difference between men and boys is the size of their toys, I'd definitely say he qualifies as a man—he's got BIG toys!

-Doris Nibbelink

- China Adventure continued

The second week was "history week." Climbing the Great Wall proved to be quite a challenge. We toured the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Hutong District (oldest housing district), a porcelain factory museum, the Temple of Heaven, and finally the Summer Palace. Typically the only "white" people to be found, we soon learned that stares and attention can become a bit stifling at times.

Then came "culture week." It proved to be the most eye opening yet. Touring the Military Museum, we were amazed



Hiking and sightseeing on the Great Wall

at the history of China and the hardship that they have endured through the years. We walked along the famous WangFuging Street and ate at the Night Market. This is where they eat everything on a stick—snakes, pumpkin, fruit, fungus, eels, beetles,

etc. They deep fat fry it, and it tastes like "Doritos," or so they say. Seeing panda at the Beijing Zoo was a highlight, as was watching an orangutan open a bottle of Sprite and drink it. The people throw all kinds of things at the animals and the guards can't stop them. We also witnessed people washing themselves in fountains.

The week ended with a two day trip to Inner Mongolia. It was like going back in time. The hills and grasslands look like Wyoming, and cattle and horses are widely used for plowing and harvesting. We also toured a famous Buddhist Grotto there. On our way back to Beijing we were stopped, our car was searched, and we had to show passports and evidence of residency to be allowed back into the city.

The extra security was connected to the Olympics. As mentioned earlier, half of the cars were taken off the roads and trucks were not allowed in the city limits. Well over half of the factories were shut down because of pollutants. This created quite a challenging situation at Daryl's work needless to say. They were not one of the "polluting" factories, but they needed trucks to deliver parts every day. The Chinese are resourceful though—welding gas was seen arriving via donkey carts during those days.

What happened during the Bouwkamp's final week in China? Watch for Part 2 in the next issue.

-Bouwkamp family



Welcome **Lillian Faye** who was born to Ben and Krystal LeFevre on December 12, 2008. She weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20 inches long. Lillian is their first child.

Jordan and Joy Roose rejoice in the birth of **Lydia Joy**. She was born on December 14, weighed 7 lbs. 11oz., and was welcomed home by big brothers Timothy and Arie.



... 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.

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.

Wanted: Looking for someone to do childcare 2-3 days a week. Give us a call, 625-4175.



In Loving Memory

Gladys Vander Molen was born in the house her grandfather built south of Lynnville. At the age of two, her family moved to a farm one mile south of Taintor. She attended Taintor Independent School (except for 8th grade when she attended Peoria Christian) and went to New Sharon

for High School.

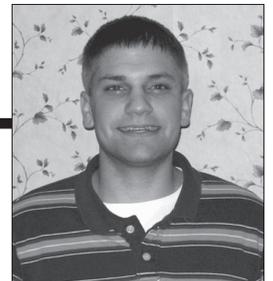
In 1952 she married soldier Marv Vander Molen but lived with her parents and worked at the Farmers Coop grocery store until he had served his time in Japan. Then the young couple moved to California because Marvin was stationed there. After their return to Iowa, Gladys and Marvin took up farming and raised 4 children in the area.

Gladys made profession of faith at the Peoria Christian Reformed Church, where she remained a faithful and caring member. She did volunteer work, enjoyed her family and friends, and was known for her bountiful garden, which she shared abundantly. We will miss you, Gladys.



UPS Truck vs Horse

At dusk on December 1, three horses owned by Pete Westerkamp discovered a break in a fenceline bordering Terry Bandstra's farm. According to tracks in the snow, they headed straight west, crossed the Bandstra yard, and started up the highway going north. At the same time, Jeff Hopkins—a UPS driver—was nearing Peoria, going south. He tried to miss the horses but was unable to avoid hitting and killing one of them. The UPS truck suffered severe damage and went into the ditch, but fortunately it stayed upright. Jeff was able to crawl to the side of the highway where a passing motorist saw him and called 911. Concerned observers tried to keep Jeff warm until police and emergency vehicles arrived. After a hospital stay, Jeff is currently facing a lengthy recovery.




 Calendar of Events

March 7 Turn clocks ahead one hour
 Hostess Supper 6 p.m.
 March 11 Soup Supper/Prayer Service
 Peoria Gym/Church 5 p.m./7 p.m.
 April 3 Cadet Pancake Supper
 Peoria Gym 5 p.m.
 April 10 Good Friday Service
 Peoria Church 7:30 p.m.
 April 12 Easter Service
 Peoria Church 9:30 a.m.
 May 25 Memorial Day Service
 Peoria Cemetery 9:00 a.m.



Neighbors are much more than just names!
Grab a cup of coffee and let's meet Kevin Franje!

It was like coming back home for Kevin Franje when he moved into the teacherage, 140 Peoria West Street, in September. He is the new homeroom teacher for grades 7 and 8 at the Peoria Christian School.

Kevin grew up with two sisters and a brother on a farm about six miles east of Peoria. He enjoyed spending time outdoors, working with his dad Tim Franje, and relishing his mother Kathy's delicious cooking. In fact, Kevin still enjoys getting away once in a while—just to go outside and work on the farm. He went to the Peoria church his entire childhood and attended the Peoria school.

Kevin's hard work ethic came in helpful when he attended Dordt College—graduating last May. While there he majored in history, received a secondary education teaching degree, and

worked in lawn care and maintenance.

He enjoys work that requires physical labor, so if you see him mowing the lawn, don't feel sorry for him. He's enjoying it! He has also had good times camping and hiking in the west, such as around Mt. Rainier in Washington.

You may ask, "What is a teacherage?" It is a house owned by the school, which is provided for a principal or teacher. If you can catch Kevin at home, stop and say "Hi." He may even offer to play you in checkers. But be prepared—Kevin is very good!

Welcome back to the area, Kevin. We hope that your first year of teaching goes well.

-John Gorter