

Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow

We have had quite the start to winter in the last three weeks. Freezing rain, sleet, snow, winds, below-zero temperatures, frozen pipes, and power outages, oh my! It makes me think of other

memorable Dakota winters. The one that I personally experienced was the Winter of 1968-1969. The snows and blizzards started in mid-December and continued until March. We didn't attend school from Christmas until Valentine's Day, and farm marketing was at a standstill. Rail service was severely hampered, and many rail lines had to be plowed daily because of drifting. Trains in some areas of Eastern Dakota and Minnesota did not operate for over 30 days.



We were living on a diversified crop and livestock farm northwest of Gary. As dairy farmers, we were forced to dump milk because of a lack of adequate storage and excessive age, as the trucks could not get to us to haul the milk to the plant. One Minnesota milk processor reported receiving only 2% of the usual milk supply in one five-day period.

Cattle producers dealt with short feed supplies, stranded cattle, inaccessible haystacks in the



fields, death losses, and injuries. We would take an improvised 'sled' (an upside-down car hood) out to the haystacks to bring in hay for the cattle. Most farmers had only a loader on an open tractor and an aluminum scoop shovel for snow removal. If snow blowers had been invented, they were not common in our neighborhood. The winter of 1968-1969 resulted in severe financial hardship for everyone, especially the farmers. The township and county governments expended significant resources trying to keep roads open for residents.

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From *The Gary Interstate*. Dec 26, 1968 - Weekend blizzard delivers 12 inches or more of new snow, swirling, blinding snow, and winds of 30 mph with gusts of 40 mph all day Sunday, canceling church services and other activities. Twelve to fourteen inches of new snow on top of the 8 - 10 inches from the December 12th and 19th storms. Power and telephone lines held up remarkably well - no reported interruptions. Winds subsided and skies cleared early Monday morning, and everyone was out trying to find someplace to put this great amount of snow. Temperatures stayed in the 20° to 30° above range during the storm. Guess what? As this is being written on Tuesday morning - it's again snowing!

The Gary Interstate, January 9, 1969 -Local news and activities have been scarce due to the drifting snow and clogged roads. More snow arrived in the past week, 4 to 6 inches. Strong southwesterly winds last evening after supper, until after midnight. Then and now, winds are northwesterly. Temperatures have not been too extreme the past week.

The Gary Interstate, January 16, 1969 - Ice and Snow Plague State Highway Crews-Following last week's blizzard, which dumped 27 inches of snow across the state, a drizzling rain turned the state's roads into a sheet of ice and brought more headaches to the highway department.

The Gary Interstate, January 23, 1969 - Very little sunshine again the past week. Daily forecasts have been for cloudy skies with light snow or freezing rain. One thing to be thankful for is that amounts have been much smaller than they have forecast—still lots of side roads unopened.

The Governor of South Dakota declared the eastern part of South Dakota an emergency area due to continued blizzard conditions. It now appears that the following situation exists in Deuel County due to heavy snowfall and blizzards. Most township roads and many of the county roads are now blocked with snow. Many of these have been blocked for a week or longer. Emergency calls to open roads for fuel, food, and medical assistance increased. The county shall acquire a Four-wheel drive V plow to respond to these calls.

Sioux Falls recorded 94 .7 inches of snow for the entire winter, 41.1 inches in December alone. Deuel County reportedly received 111 inches that winter. Blizzard warnings were issued for seven days in December and nine days in January in the Central Region. Heavy snow warnings were issued for 15 days each in December and January and 13 days in February.

Then began the worries of spring flooding from melting snow.

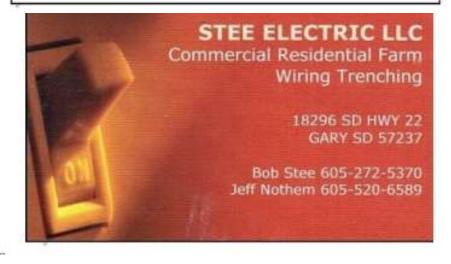


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2023

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Fairchild Farmgirl – Happy New Year!

I don't know about you, but I'm kind of happy to be in a brand new year, absolutely full of possibilities! 2022 just wasn't nice to us for the most part. I mean, yes, none of us got sick, we were all healthy for the most part, but we had the tornado in May, dealt with all that, insurance stuff, clean up stuff, ick. We actually still are dealing on our house roof, but you know what's nice being married to Ron, I think he likes messing with this stuff.

And lets face it; he always looks crabby, especially with his beard. Sometimes downright unapproachable, and I think when dealing with all that stuff, you need a junk yard dog in your corner to get your point across. That's him. Besides, I'm too soft. I cave.

The crescendo of the year started the Tuesday before Christmas when our old dog was being even crazier than she had already become. Now to preface, this dog has cheated death so many times and for a New Foundland, she was knocking on her 13 year; she was old.

That Monday she would shove her whole face in her water bowl. "There she goes," I said, not trying to be cold hearted, but every 8 months or so, something happens, and we talk about that last ride to Vet Joe in White SD and she snaps right out of everything that was ailing her. "This time, she's either got failing kidneys or she's becoming diabetic." I told Ron.

Ron was taking an old cow up to the vet so I asked if he could put her in the pickup and haul her up there as well. He got home and to my pure **DISBELIEF**, he said, "they ran her blood and she's perfect. They think she's going blind and deaf, and thinks she might not have much for depth perception, and that's why she's going into her water bowl like she is. Oh and she's over hydrated." Well of course, she's drinking a gallon of water at a time. "They also said that maybe we'd be lucky enough to wake up one morning and she'll have passed in the middle of the night."

Comforting? Not really. Anyway, she just kept getting weirder; then we saw it. She was into her heat cycle and was bleeding. Goodness sakes, blood on the floor, too cold for her to be outside, and she shoves her way through anything like a bull so no gating her off anywhere. We covered our floors and couches up like nothing before and hoped for the best, as she got loonier and started barking at the wall every chance she could.

A couple years ago, we almost lost her from a pyometra. She was acting like it again this time by Christmas Eve morning, but declining much faster. By afternoon, we were spending as much time with her as possible. Before supper we called it. We could not let her suffer anymore. Our vet wasn't available, so Ron and our oldest son took care of her. That was hard, we had a boyfriend over and a girlfriend, both relatively new to our household, so I'm sure they thought it was a little uncomfortable, but my eldest's sweet girlfriend is a vet tech and she was the one who gently said "enough".

We rallied after that, and had a good night despite Fluffys passing. In the morning, Ron was

doing his chores and his bobcat started on fire. He got out, put out the fire, but a little while later he was over to his dads and I looked out the window to see his bobcat engulfed in flames. Then two of us got sick.

So yeah, we're done with 2022. Bring on the awesomeness that 2023 will be all about. We're waiting, patiently.

Until next time,

Fairchild "no, we are not getting another dog, kids. But Ron did get his new to him bobcat." Fairchild

Page 3 !

Winter Reading

With the potential for snowbound days, make sure you have got a good book on hand or in the car. The Gary Library is open from 10:30 AM to 6 PM on Tuesdays and from 2 PM to 6:30 PM on Fridays. Here are some winter reading options for anyone interested.

- *The Long Winter* by Laura Ingalls Wilder tells the story of the hard winter of 1880.
- *The Children's Blizzard* by David Laskin recounts the January 12, 1888, blizzard in the Midwest
- *I Survived the Children's Blizzard* by Lauren Tarshis: 'I Survived'; series for 7 10-year-old readers.
- In All Its Fury: A History of the Blizzard of January 12, 1888, a collection of stories told by the people who lived through it.
- *The Giants of the Earth* by Ole Rolvaag, his personal experiences as a Norwegian immigrant on the Great Plains.
- All Hell Broke Loose: Experiences of Young People During the Armistice Day 1940 Blizzard
- Wings in the Wind: The Armistice Day Storm of 1940 by Jon Steffes

The Children's Blizzard

The winter of 1887-1888 was fierce and merciless. November brought ice storms, snowstorms, and sub-zero temperatures. December came with mountains of snow. A massive sleet storm in January covered everything with dangerous ice. Finally, on January 12, 1888, the morning brought milder temperatures and sunshine. Carl Saltee, a 16-year-old Norwegian immigrant in Fortier Township, Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota, remembered that "on the 12th of January 1888 around noontime it was so warm it melted snow and ice."

What the settlers did not know was that a dangerous blizzard was moving very quickly across Montana and northern Colorado. The massive cold front had formed over Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada. Both areas saw aggressive winds and extreme temperature drops. On January 11th, the dangerous cold raced across the United States. When it hit, it caught settlers by surprise. Between 250 and 500 people died that weekend, according to newspaper editors' estimates in the Dakota Territory, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Iowa. More died in the weeks after the storms from pneumonia and infections from amputations.

The Children's Blizzard was so named because so many of the victims were schoolchildren trying to make it home from school. Teachers generally kept children in their schoolrooms. Exceptions nearly always resulted in disaster.

From The Gary Interstate -

January 12, 1888 - Two children of Joseph Hutchinson, who lives 3 miles west of Gary, had perished while returning home from school. A searching party was formed at Gary to search for the Hutchinson children (William and Joseph Jr.). The search for the Hutchinson children has been kept up every day since Friday, but so far, they have not been found.

January 27, 1888 - There have been but few days this week in which the search for the Hutchinson boys could be pursued, and so far, no trace of the whereabouts is known.

February 3, 1888 - The Hutchinson boys have been found. Monday, word was brought to town that the bodies of the two Hutchinson boys had been found. They had traveled with the storm in a direct line south of the schoolhouse for a distance of four miles. The two boys were placed in one coffin and laid to rest in Grandview Cemetery forever.

Carl Saltee, in Fortier, MN, remembered that "A dark and heavy wall builded up around the northwest coming fast, coming like those hevy [sic] thunderstorms, like a shot. In a few moments, we had the severest snowstorm I ever saw in my life with a terrible hard wind, like a hurrycane [sic], snow so thick we could not see more than 3 steps from the doors at times."

It was the deadliest blizzard ever in South Dakota, though not the most extreme blizzard. What made the storm so deadly was the timing (during the school and workday), the lack of warning from the Army Signal Corps, the speed at which it came, and the mild January morning that preceded it.

Track the Jack Payout

After 54 weeks of amazing support, Track the Jack for the benefit of the Playground Project ended on Dec 8 with some fantastic results. *Image of the Playground Project on pg. 9.*

Track the Jack fun fact stats

- *\$561,215* in ticket sales
- \$281,607.50 to the winners
- \$140,303.75 for the Park project
- \$28,060.75 to the organizations
- \$111,243 to gift individuals/families, plan future projects & fun events, and of course, pay expenses
- 300ish volunteers selling tickets
- 76ish boxes of tickets purchased (608,000)
- 15 bartenders

• 40 lbs. of **BBQ** sold on the final night Track the Jack returns on the first Thursday in February.











Siebert Dorhout, 86, of Rock Valley, Iowa, died, November 4, 2022, at Hegg Health Center in Rock Valley. Funeral service was held Monday, November 7, at 10:00 AM at Porter Funeral Home of Rock Valley with Rev. Cliff Hoekstra officiating. The service was livestreamed at https://www.porterfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/siebert-dorhout. Burial followed at Valley View Cemetery of Rock Valley. Visitation, with the family present, was held Sunday, November 6, from 3:00-5:00 PM at Porter Funeral Home.

The family requests memorials be directed to Justice For All (https://jfa-nwiowa.org/). A ministry in which Siebert volunteered for many years.

Siebert Dorhout was born on November 17, 1935, in Lebanon, IA, to Peter and Johanna (DeRoon) Dorhout. He went to country school - 4 years, Rock Valley Christian School, and then graduated from Western Christian High School in 1953.

Siebert was a hard-working farm kid. He built grain bins for a couple of summers and then joined the Army and spent 16 months in Europe. When he came back to Rock Valley, he met the love of his life, Judith Lynn Mulder. He married her on December 27, 1960, and they made their home in Rock Valley. Soon after, he decided to get into business with a partner, Richard Berkenpas, and bought Rock Valley Furniture, where he found enjoyment in serving customers. He learned the craft of carpet-laying, and both he and Berky were two of the best.

Three children were born (Carla, Joe, Mark) and all attended Rock Valley Christian, as well as Rock Valley Public School. Siebert and Judi, at this time, bought a little cabin on a little lake in South Dakota, and this really molded a big part of their life for the remainder of his years. For 47 years, they considered Lake Cochrane, near Gary, SD, their home-away-from-home. Weekends and vacations were priorities in South Dakota.

Siebert sold the furniture business in 1989, and he worked for the next ten years at Inspiration Hills, a church camp, located near Canton, SD. He enjoyed being the head of maintenance and was able to use his skills as a problem-solver to improve the function and use of that facility. And then, he found his true calling, at the Lake Cochrane Recreation Area, a campground on Lake Cochrane. For the better part of the next 20 years, his life revolved around helping people enjoy the experience of camping. He spared no expense of his time or talents to make the campground better.

Siebert truly cared about people, including his parents, in-laws, the many customers that he had at the store, the camp, or the campground; but most of all his family. In the furniture business he lived by the phrase, "Service is Our Specialty." This is the way he lived his life. Siebert truly cared about his community. He was totally committed to Rock Valley, and was a proud member of many organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, Golf Course Board, and as an elder in their church. He also supported the schools and worked hard to make Rock Valley a better place. He liked bowling, golfing, fishing and probably most of all, mowing lawns. Siebert also enjoyed one of his favorite places, Justice For All, a service group that he worked tirelessly with. He loved his time fixing things, organizing the next truck, and having coffee and devotions with his good friends. Siebert is survived by his wife of 62 years, Judi (Mulder) Dorhout, of Rock Valley, his three children, Carla (Arlo) Van Beek, of Orange City, Joe (Sherry) Dorhout, of Luverne, MN, Mark (Nicole) Dorhout, of Panora; 7 grandchildren, Jennifer (Todd) Bergsma, of Hawarden, Dana (Josh) Pluim, of Alton, Chris (Luz) Dorhout, of Mar Del Plata, Argentina, Jessica (Dylan) Wheeler, of Sioux Falls, SD, Casey (Val) Dorhout, Polk City, Hunter (Anna) Dorhout, of Papillion, NE, Johanna Dorhout, of Lincoln, NE; 10 great-grandchildren: Meghan, Connor, Brooklyn, Brennen, Andrew, Evelyn, Arthur, Lillian, Cameron, and Bennett; brother Clarence Dorhout, of Orange City, sister Joanne (Jerry) Niessen, of Orange City.

He was preceded in death by his parents Peter and Johanna Dorhout of Rock Valley, sister-inlaw Arletta Dorhout of Orange City, and brother-in-law Ron Noteboom of Orange City.



Judith Ann Lanoue, passed away on Thursday, November 3, 2022, at Welia Health in Mora. She was 87 years old. Her Funeral Service was held at 11:00 am on Friday, November 11, 2022, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mora with Fr Derek Wiechmann officiating. Interment was at the Grandview Cemetery in Gary, South Dakota.

A woman who cared for so many over her lifetime, Judith Ann was born to Bernard and Alice Schulte in the winter of 1935. The eldest of eight children, she helped raise those younger siblings and worked alongside her dad in the barn and fields on the prairie farmland near Gary, South Dakota. A lifelong Roman Catholic, she loved singing in church, and she and her two sisters

grouped to sing at events in the teen years. Music was in the farmhouse, too, on certain fun nights when the parlor rug was rolled up for the dance floor, Alice playing the piano and Bernard the fiddle.

Following her graduation from Gary High, Judy was working in the Red Owl Grocery Store when a young man kept stopping in and playing pranks on her. The courting continued for two years with fishing trips and such, then on May 4, 1957, she was united in marriage to that Gary man, Herbert Hunt. It was a double ceremony with sister Frances and Elmer Fritz, and that strengthened a bond between those four which lasted their entire lives. While living in Gary and running a butcher shop, Herb and Judy had three children: Gail Lynn, Gwendolyn Marie and Gregory John.

When the business went under, the Hunts pulled up stakes and moved to Stanchfield, Minnesota, trading the prairie for woods and swamps. Judy worked a couple different jobs before latching on with Control Data in Cambridge. That crew put on great potlucks, and she loved making treats for them. Judy also joined the super-fun and successful Braham Tap bowling team, and she continued bowling well into her 70's, enjoying traveling to many state and national tournaments over the years. Hosting and going to card nights with friends was more entertainment for Herb and Judy, particularly with Clem and Arlotte Miller's group of Princeton.

Judy loved nature and was a life-long bird feeder which included hanging oranges out for orioles each spring, and cardinal sightings were always special because red was her favorite color. Bird feeders were always up at the homes in Stanchfield, Blaine and Brunswick. A persistent fisherwoman who put in her time on the water and ice, she also joined Herb and Greg in the woods for deer hunting, bringing home a couple of fork horn bucks. In their later ages, a good trip for Herb and Judy was pulling the pop-up camper to several state forest campgrounds. Savanna Portage earned repeat visits.

Herb died in 2006, and Judy remarried Robert "Bob" Lanoue of Mora in 2009, adding a special new family to get to know and love. Bob's place across the river from town kept her surrounded by nature. Along with the bird feeders outside the sunroom, there was a pheasant meadow, and an enclosed deer stand to the north which she comfortably used for her last hunts.

Bob and Judy were active with St. Mary's Catholic Church and enjoyed several trips while their health allowed, including one to Toronto for a special Knights of Columbus gathering. The two dutifully attended many grandkid games and concerts. In the last years, Bob and Judy were cared for by the great team at St. Clare's Living Community in Mora, with Bob passing away in 2021. Fran and Elmer also passed away in 2021, all of which hit her very hard. Her last big trip was making Gary's 150th Celebration this past Fourth of July weekend. She loved that town.

Service was a huge part of Judy's life the past decades. Along with church events, she volunteered for many pancake breakfasts with the Braham VFW Auxiliary and digging dirt with the eclectic Braham Garden Club. She helped care for and raise all her grandchildren.

Judith was preceded in death by her parents Bernard and Alice (Kenyon) Schulte; first husband Herbert Hunt; second husband Robert Lanoue; brothers, Don, Gene, Paul, and Richard Schulte; sisters, Frances Fritz and Cecile McInerny. She is survived by her children, Gail Hunt, Gwendolyn Williams, and Gregory (Jennifer) Hunt; grandchildren, Adam, Gage, Drew, Inez, Austin, and Anthony; great grandchildren, Madison, Carter, William, Dax, Daisy, Dixie, Harley, Trinity, Diontae, Sophia, Sierra, and Dean; brother John "JB" (Carolyn) Schulte; sisters-in-law, Diane Schulte, Ellen BeKaert, and Judy Schulte; All of the Robert Lanoue children and their families; as well as many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

OBITUARIES

2023



Mavis Benner Johnson, a devoted mother and wife whose late-in-life tenacity eventually won her a master's degree, died Dec. 30, 2022. Mavis was 91. A celebration of her life will be held next summer.

Mavis was born in Gary, SD, on July 30, 1931, a child of the Great Depression. Her father, Arthur Benner, owned the butcher shop in Gary that is still operating today. Her mother, Eva Fritz, was a homemaker and later a lead typesetter for the Gary Interstate weekly newspaper. Mavis recalled listening to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's fireside chats during World War II and the frugality of the era that included ration stamps and a 5-cent candy bar divided

among five Benner siblings on a Saturday night.

After high school graduation, Mavis worked as a bank teller in Gary until she married Walter Johnson, a farmer near Revillo, SD, in 1952. Children came in rapid succession: James born in 1954, Sandra in 1956, Jill in 1957, William in 1958, Sonja in 1959, and Sara born in 1963.

Mavis embraced life on the cattle and grain farm, raising a huge vegetable garden, apple orchard, raspberry and strawberry patches, and a prized plot of irises. She was a wonderful cook, and family favorites included her pies, homemade baked goods, roast beef, goulash, roast chicken and mashed potatoes. Her life-long friends from Revillo all belonged to the same county extension club; for meetings, they donned dresses and heels and enjoyed trading recipes and crafts and home skills. She was a volunteer election worker at the township hall and followed politics her entire life, culminating in a trip to the White House where she met President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush.

She passed along her love of Lake Cochrane near Gary to her children, who gathered there every year to celebrate her birthday. For her 80th birthday, her children collected a list of "80 Things We Love About You," including values she instilled in them, sacrifices made for them, and their favorite foods she prepared.

In her 50s, Mavis went back to school. She earned her bachelor's degree in counseling from Mount Marty College in Watertown and then a master's degree in social work from South Dakota State University. Mavis worked at a group home in Watertown and a nursing home. In recent years, she resided at facilities in Watertown, Clear Lake and Sanford Health Sylvan Court in Canby, MN.

Mavis was preceded in death by her parents, all her siblings (LaMorne Wiest, Elaine Kontz, Dennis Benner and Jean Benner), her husband Walter, and her son William, who died in a car accident in 2020. She is survived by James Johnson (Gail), of Crystal, MN; Sandy Johnson (Chuck Raasch), of Alexandria, VA; Jill Woster (Tim), of North Pole, AK; Billy's wife Stefane Johnson, of Revillo; Sonja Johnson, of McMinnville, OR and Sara MacGregor (Scott), of Encinitas, CA; as well as 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



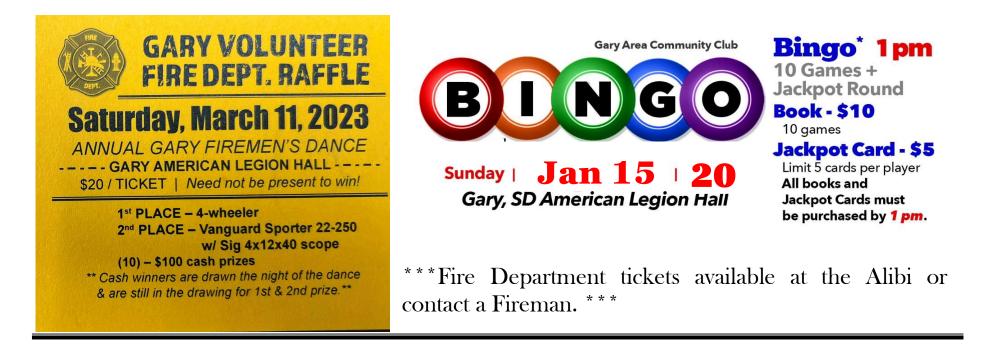
Bradley Duane Kleinhuizen, 68, passed away January 1, 2023, at Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls, SD, after a lengthy illness. Brad was born December 7, 1954, in Willmar, MN, to H. Roger Kleinhuizen and Olive (Johnson) Kleinhuizen. He is survived by two sisters, Paulette (Bill) Tone of Lithia, FL, Pam (Al) Minks of Minneapolis, MN, and one brother, Brett (Dawn) Kleinhuizen of White Pine, MI, one nephew, Brian (Lisa) Curski and two nieces, Nikki (Gedney) Webb and Paige Kleinhuizen. His parents and brother Bartley Kleinhuizen proceeded him in death. Brad graduated from White Pine High School in 1973 and served in the US Army from 1974 to 1977. He lived in the Minneapolis area for over 40 years as a transmission rebuilder and retired in 2019 to Gary, SD, where he lived until his passing. He enjoyed fishing, hanging out with his buddies, and tinkering with computer building. No service is planned at this time.

Well wishes for the family can be sent to Miller Funeral Home at 507 South Main Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104. Donations can be made to the American Heart Association in his memory.





GARY HAPPENINGS



The Playground Project

The second round of Track the Jack exceeded the goal for the Gary Givers playground project. The final total was \$140,303.75 for the Park. Additional park improvements are planned. This is the future playground plan.



Individual or group donations are still being accepted for the Playground Project – donors will receive recognition in the improved park. Contact the Gary Givers through the Gary City Office or on Facebook for additional information.

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