



Gary (605)272-5233

This paper printed for you by
DNB NATIONAL BANK
 Gary and Clear Lake SD
 We want to thank them for this service!



Clear Lake (605)874-2191

Winter in Dakota

It is winter in Dakota! Not the awful ice bound winter of the New England coast where the fog blows in from the sea shrouding the land in frozen vapor. Not the alternating rain and mud and snow and slush, freezing and thawing of the Southern states; nor yet the reek and drizzle of the Pacific Coast where the fog rarely lifts, and the sun seldom shines from fall till spring. But bright, crisp, piping Dakota winter: winter with a breath of bubbling ozone spiced with health and joy. The mercury drops down to twenty - thirty - sometimes forty below - but "what of it?" Nobody freezes. Nobody suffers. It only makes fingers tingle and cheeks glow as the red corpuscles play football through our veins. Jack Frost may nip an ear or pinch a toe for you, but Jack is a great artist and given to these little idiosyncrasies. Go out on a sharp morning and see what landscape he has wrought. From a hundred chimney tops, far as the eye can reach, great fleecy columns rise



straight toward Heavens, unfolding their beauty like gorgeous chrysanthemums bursting into bloom. Every blade of grass is studded with diamonds, a king's ransom hangs suspended in the air. Released from their stalls, herds of sturdy Galloways, of broad-backed Herefords and mild-eyed Jerseys are gathered on the sunny side of the straw rick, chewing the cud of contentment.

Continued next page.

Fairchild Farmgirl

Flowers
Page 4

Let's Harvest

Ice
Page 5-6

Retirement

Serving Others
Page 7-8



From out of the hay mow echoes the homely cackle of busy "biddies" lining their nests with two-cent eggs. The wheel tires creak a shrill melody on the frosted track, while the roadside wires, linking the farmstead to the great, busy world, keyed to Aeolian pitch, fill the ear with rhythm. The bouquet of rich, old wine is in the air. It races through the veins, mounts to the brain, sparkles in the eye and

bursts from the lips in laughter and shouting. Sing, if you please, the beauties of the tropics, of teeming, swarming life, of perennial foliage, flowers, and fruit: extenuate the "luke warmness" of the more temperate climates and endure the penetrating chill of lower altitudes - if you know no better - but give me the cheery rejuvenating, glorious Dakota winter.

The Gary Interstate, March 25, 1904

A Look Back

100 years ago, February 1925

- ⇒Carnival dance to be held - no girls under 18 allowed
- ⇒Farm home of FE Rogers burns
- ⇒Births: Girls to Mr. & Mrs. Tom McLain
Mr. & Mrs. AB Iverson
Mr. & Mrs. AF Stark
- ⇒Boys to Mr. & Mrs. Nels Larsen
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Rauen
- ⇒Death: Jacob Jacobsen

75 years ago, February 1950

- ⇒Shelby Thomas burns hand in truck fire
- ⇒Mr. & Mrs. IM Hinsvark open cafe
- ⇒Oswald Bros receive conservation award
- ⇒Passenger train service discontinued
- ⇒Chimney fire at Thos Law residence
- ⇒Auctions: Larry Simonton
Henry Djonne and Son
- ⇒Marriage: Audrey TeGantvoort & Bud Koelke
- ⇒Death: Wm Rieger and Mrs. Wm Stanke

50 years ago, February 1975

- ⇒Couples party February 1st
- ⇒Tri County Farm and Home Show February 22nd
- ⇒Beverly Buetler breaks arm while ice skating
- ⇒Sledding party held at Cliff Carsten home
- ⇒Seniors of the week: Jackie Ruigh, Faye Stuerman, and Craig Stone
- ⇒Births: Boy to Staff Sargeant & Mrs. Gail Sander
- ⇒Deaths: Karl Oswald, Luicille Ritchie, and John Rehder

25 years ago, February 2000

- ⇒Going away party for Bill Blaschko family
- ⇒Estate, farm, business continuation workshop
- ⇒Benefit for Mike Norton



Ron Stangeland will be celebrating his 80th Birthday on Saturday, March 22nd from 2 - 4 PM at the Gary Fire Hall



No Gifts Please



Public Service Announcement

To keep clothes from freezing on the clothesline, put a handful of salt in the last rinsing water. --We recently had an issue with my clothes dryer and had a wet load of laundry in the washer at the time. So even though it was freezing out, I hung them on the line. My spouse thought I had lost it. It was sheets and bedding and it smelled so good when it finished freeze drying! What did generations of women do with their laundry in the winter? Exactly what I did but I waited to do laundry again until the dryer was repaired!



Advertisement for Gate City General store, including hours and contact information.

Advertisement for Gary Volunteer Fire Department Raffle, listing prizes and event details.

The Gary Fire Department is selling Raffles. Drawing will take place at the Annual Firemen's Dance. (Dance details found on pg. 10)

Fairchild Farmgirl

Happy Valentines Day! I asked my twelve year old son if he had a valentine on the way to school this morning. He shot me a not so Valentines Day worthy look and said no.

Do you like all that chatter about flowers and love? Last year my niece got flowers and chocolate from her boyfriend and she said that it was her first time ever getting something at work from someone on Valentines Day. Its tough when you're self employed with your husband in the same gig as you and he comes home that day with the same gift as every year for the last 20 years; a sad looking rose that's seen better days from the gas station.

The old gas station rose. You know the one, where if you get a certain amount of gas or is it that you just get some gas and you get to pick out a flower? It's a nice sentiment if you're the station giving out roses with a purchase. But let me tell you, as it's recipient, that second hand rose feels a little lacking.

Back in the day when we were kinda hand to mouth or shall I say lacking in the finance department, I thought that gas station rose was a little corny, and a whole lot sweet. Now I'm like, even if we don't have any jingle, write me a sweet note, get me a Snickers Heart (I'm telling you, they have them at Jim's in Canby and I get one every time I'm there) or something I mean Dollar General even has flowers.

Back to this morning's car ride, I listened to the DJ talk about Valentines Day and he buys his young daughter a bouquet, but gets nothing for his wife. What? So I looked what's trending in 2025 for Valentines gifts and who should get them: Crazy.

Purple orchids? Gerber daisies? Unexpected fruits? I mean, I wouldn't want a bunch of bananas or a peck of apples-I could call that unexpected. I'd certainly have

to share them. But even under "what to wear on Valentines Day" The trending colors are black, purple and deep red. That sounds like a blood clot or old scab on a dairy goat's udder, not a Valentines Day outfit.

But I digress.

I pressed on. What to eat on Valentines Day that's trendy: Love is in the air with Beef Wellington and Marry Me Chicken. Here at the Rancho, we've been married long before the word trend even came out and if they haven't made a recipe called. "Married with 9 children tator tot hotdish" well here she is. And she's delish with a glass of chocolate milk.

I can't believe what's going on for 2025 Valentine's Day. Maybe that gas station rose isn't so bad after all. It is a whole lot less complicated, so go get some gas on Valentines and get that rose for your honey. Tell'em Suzanne sent ya.

Until next time:

Fairchild "I love any kind of flowers" Farmgirl

NOSBUSH
PLUMBING
& HEATING
BRADY NOSBUSH
Cell: 507.829.8267
nosbushplumbingllc.wixsite.com/website Find us on Facebook

Since 1961
Viessman
CLUFF VIESSMAN, INC.
HAULER OF SPECIALTY PRODUCTS
www.viessmantrucking.com
WAYNE VIESSMAN, CEO
Office: 605-272-3201
Home: 605-272-5251
Cellular: 507-380-5352
waynev@viessmantrucking.com
SmartWay Transport Partner
Getting There With Cleaner Air
Corporate: Box 175, Gary, SD 57237-605.272.5241 Fax: 605.272.6666 800.328.2408

Just a Chip Off the Old Block

It's harvest season in the Dakotas - ice harvesting season that is!

Prior to the invention of refrigeration and, more importantly, the development of rural electrification, food was kept cold by use of zinc-lined ice boxes. A block of ice was placed on the top shelf of an ice box (the predecessor of the modern refrigerator) and the cool air would settle below to cool the foods. Melted ice would be collected in a drip pan at the bottom of the appliance and be dumped at least once a day.

Ben Benner is busily engaged in filling his ice house with a fine quality of ice from the creek.

The Gary Interstate, January 27, 1911

But what was the source of the ice needed for this? Local ponds and lakes would freeze over in the winter months and come January and February, the ice harvest would begin. Harvesting ice was a very hard and very cold job.

The tools required for ice harvesting were a measuring stick, a spike pole, ice tongs, an ice saw, and an ice chisel. Ice needed to be at least 18 inches thick but smaller, shallow ponds could produce 36-inch-thick ice. Ice would be marked off in a grid using the measuring stick for making blocks at least 14 inches square and weighing 130 - 150 pounds. Larger ice blocks measuring 14 by 28 inches would weigh 250 - 300 pounds. A horse-drawn ice plow was invented by Nathaniel Wyeth in 1825. This implement had twin blades set about 20 inches apart which would score a checkerboard grid on a frozen lake. The horses were shod with special cleated horse shoes for better traction on the ice. The individual blocks would then be separated by the use of the 5-6-foot-long ice saws and breaker bars.



By the 1920's, gas powered circular saws were used to cut the blocks of ice. The cut blocks were floated to the shore using the spike pole and loaded onto wagons either by use of a ramp or lifted with the ice tongs. These large and very heavy blocks of ice were then taken to the ice houses for storage. Ice houses were usually double walled buildings with sawdust or straw between the walls for insulation. The walls could be as much as 24 inches thick. Some were made of native rock, others of poured cement but



most in our area were wooden. Many were built into the north side of a hill. Well-built ice houses had to hold a year's supply of ice before being restocked the next winter season. The ice blocks were stacked between layers of more sawdust. Some sort of drain would allow the water from the melted ice to escape. There was often ventilation in the roof, somewhat like an attic vent, to remove heat that would build up in the summer months.

When making deliveries, the iceman would split off an appropriately sized chunk of ice and hoist it onto his back with the ice tongs, carry it into the kitchen and deposit it into the waiting icebox. Cost of ice in 1930 was 25 cents for 100 pounds. My, how the ice was appreciated in the dog days of summer for iced lemonade and hand-cranked ice cream!

The Amish as well as many modern-day homesteaders living off the grid are building ice houses and harvesting ice today. Modern ice houses are being constructed with styrofoam insulation blocks.

The opportunity to see the ice harvesting process in person occurs on the few occasions when ice is cut for the St. Paul Winter Carnival ice palaces in Minnesota.



The Three Rivers Park District hosts ice harvesting programs and events at Richardson Nature Center in Bloomington, MN. The latest opportunity to experience the adventures of Minnesota's hardy ice harvesters was held on January 25, 2025. Attendees watched as blocks of ice were cut out of the pond with a vintage ice saw and witnessed the pulling of an antique ice plow. Blocks of ice were weighed, use of chipping tools to make ice cubes was demonstrated, early food preservation techniques with historical interpreters were demonstrated and stories were shared from ice harvest historians. An ice rescue demonstration by Bloomington Fire and Rescue was presented. This is a great event for families, grandparents and all people interested in ice harvesting history.

GARY AMERICAN LEGION
DANCE HALL

Accepting Bookings for

- ≥ Wedding Receptions & Dances
- ≥ Graduation Parties
- ≥ Anniversary Parties
- ≥ Youth Events
- ≥ Birthday Parties

Contact Loran at 507-277-5525
Or email garylegionhall@gmail.com

Master SGT Ryan Stoks

MSG Ryan Stoks is retiring from the United States Air Force after 20 years of service on February 28, 2025.

Ryan is the son of Larry and Helen Stoks of Gary, SD.

He graduated from basic training at Joint Base San Antonio, Lackland, Texas. Ryan was then stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, and Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

He was deployed 5 times, during his career he was honored for many accomplishments, awarded 2 meritorious service medals, 3 accommodation medals, and 3 achievement medals.

He will be honored for his 20 years of service on February 7th in O'Fallon, Illinois.



Staff Sgt. Ross McCormick and Airman 1st Class Ryan Stoks prepare a parachute for folding. Airman Stoks says he learned to become a strong leader and individual while wrestling in high school and college, which helps him in the Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Laurence Zankowski)

Airman excels at job, serving community

Published Feb. 2, 2007

By Sheila Rupp

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO -- Working hard and being dedicated is a mentality that Airman 1st Class Ryan Stoks learned on the wrestling mats from a young age; that mentality is something that remains true for him today serving in the Air Force.

Serving in the 58th Operations Support Squadron, Airman Stoks finds himself here after being named an All-American National Junior College Athletic Association

wrestler. His own wrestling career may have ended, but that doesn't stop his passion for the sport and the lessons he learned on the mat from continuing on.

Airman Stoks grew up in Minnesota, where wrestling is to the residents what football is to Texans. His father's ~~nine~~ *eight* brothers wrestled and all three of Airman Stoks' older brothers took to the mat. He went to the Minnesota state wrestling tournament sophomore through senior years of high school and never lost a team match during his high school career. He says what he learned on the mat is that you have to participate individually and as part of a team, which also holds true in the Air Force.

Airman Stoks attended Minnesota West Community and Technical College and was named an All-American wrestler in 2001, his freshman year. The following year, he was ranked third in the nation but didn't have a chance to repeat due to a knee injury.

He has given back to youth by coaching at camps and most recently, coaching the Highland High School wrestling team. Although he may not be wrestling himself, Airman Stoks uses the characteristics he learned as a champion wrestler to be a good Airman and to help wrestlers at Highland succeed.

Last year, Highland's team didn't win a dual meet, but this year they have won nearly all of them. He said he enjoys working with the young athletes and feels that serving as a coach will help him in his own future. Airman Stoks is younger than the other coach and feels that wrestlers come to him for advice or with problems because he can relate to them. He said that wrestling has helped him to learn to be a strong individual and leader, which will help him in his future Air Force career and also helped him learn the importance of strong individuals coming together to work as a team.

His hard work and dedication show in his shop and his supervisors have taken notice.

"There is no obstacle that he will not see a possible solution to; because of this drive he has assumed an earned authority within our shop despite being junior in rank to the majority of the personnel," Master Sgt. Mark Rasnick said. "... Ryan is one of those Airmen who does not believe that his job is done at 4:30 p.m.; he enjoys representing the Air Force."

Airman Stoks said the support of his supervisors and coworkers has been amazing. "Sergeant Fernandez and Sergeant Rasnick have really, really supported me with this - I couldn't do any of it without them. Tournaments and practices have made my schedule difficult and they're always willing to help out with that," he said.

Airman Stoks says he isn't sure what other endeavors his Air Force career will hold in the future but knows that he loves what he does. On weekday evenings you'll find him working with a group of eager wrestlers on the mats at Highland. He says his goal is to help coach the wrestlers to be one of the top four teams in the state.

Airman Stoks is one of the thousands of Airman that exemplify the core values of the Air Force: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do.



Menno W. Fokken, age 86, of Canby, MN, passed away Sunday, January 19, 2025, at the Sanford Canby Medical Center in Canby, MN. Funeral services Monday, January 27, 2025, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Canby, MN with Rev. Levi Bollerud officiating. Burial was in the Canby City Cemetery, Canby. Visitation was January 26th at Houseman Funeral Home, Birk Chapel in Canby, MN. Houseman Funeral Home, Canby was entrusted with the arrangements.

Menno Walter Fokken was born May 6, 1938, to Bernhard and Fanny (Knoblauch) Fokken in Canby, MN. He was baptized and confirmed into the Lutheran faith at Zacchaeus Lutheran Church. His mother died in 1942, and he gained a new mother and stepbrother when his father remarried Emma (Roenspiess) Zell in 1945.

Menno was the second oldest of the Fokken boys. They learned early how to work hard on the farm, but they still snuck in fun, like a perpetual Monopoly game set up in the brooder house where they'd play in between chores. Their games could last weeks, and they often had to make their own money when the players' wealth exceeded the bank that came with the game.

At a fateful dance in Madison, MN, Menno met the love of his life, Lucille (Hillman). They were married on May 10, 1959, at St. John's Lutheran church in Marietta, MN. They built a life together and welcomed four kids over the next 8 years, Gary, Lyle, Gail and Mark. They continued to grow the farm and raise their family. Menno valued education and took pride in making sure his kids had that opportunity. In 1981, they were surprised to welcome Ryan to the family and surprised again two years later when Sara arrived. Despite being surprises, Menno liked to say he "couldn't stand the thought of an empty nest, so we had two more." Menno continued farming full-time until 2005 when he turned the farm over to his oldest son, Gary, and moved into Canby. He still enjoyed farming some land and going out to the farm to help whenever he could. In retirement, Menno and Lucille enjoyed traveling around the world.

As a farmer, Menno knew the value of the land because "they can't make any more of it." He was a land steward by serving on the Soil and Water Conservation Board in Yellow Medicine County for more than 30 years. He recorded and reported rainfall totals to the State of Minnesota and the conservation district faithfully for over 40 years (longer than any recorder in state history). He served on the National Public Grazing Lands committee, and in retirement, tended the flowers, lawns and landscaping at Our Saviour's Lutheran church.

He was a faithful servant of God's church, being a life-long usher and serving on many boards, building and call committees. He valued community service saying, "invest in yourself by investing in your community." He served on the Yellow Medicine County Fair Board for over 30 years and on the Board at the National Bank of Canby, a volunteer 4-H leader, and volunteered for countless events. Menno especially treasured his time with family whether it was playing a game of Uno or dominoes, sharing a little lunch, or just visiting.

Menno is survived by his wife, Lucille; children, Gary (Vivian) of Gary, SD, Lyle (Guy Allen) of Onalaska, WI, Mark of Marshall, MN, Ryan of Columbia Heights, MN, Sara (Corey) Stoks of Gary, SD; 13 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren, brothers Bernhard (Heidi) Fokken of Plymouth, MN, Erich (Celina) Fokken of Canby, MN, Theodore (Bonnie) Fokken of St. Louis, Park, MN; and sister-in-law, Judy Fokken of Canby, MN.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bernhard and Fanny (Knoblauch), stepmother Emma (Roenspiess) Zell; step-brother Gert Zell; brother Paul Fokken; and daughter, Gail Fokken.

Mark Your Calendars!



ANNUAL GARY FIREMEN'S DANCE

Saturday, March 15th

Featuring Lendon James


Gary American Legion Dance Hall

Doors open at 7PM

Dance starts at 8PM

* * See a Fireman to get your raffle tickets

The Gary Givers
FUNDRAISER
TRACK THE JACK
THURSDAY NIGHTS
at the Gary Liquor Store
TICKET SALES: 5 P.M. – 7 P.M.
Drawing: 7:15 P.M. – Must be present to win!
*** Must be at least 21 years old to participate. ***
 2 tickets – \$5 ♥ 5 tickets – \$10 ♥ 20 tickets – \$20

 **AMERICAN LEGION 109 CLUB**
 1107 COTEAU ST, GARY, SD 57237
SERVING | 5:30 - 8:30 P.M.
 TAKE OUT AVAILABLE CALL: 605-272-5832 during serving hours

Upcoming Schedule:

Feb 15th – Smoked Pork Chops
 or Rib Eye

Mar 1st – Prime Rib

Mar 15th – Smoked Pork Chops
 or Rib Eye

Mar 29th – Ribs

Apr 5th – Prime Rib

Apr 19th – Smoked Pork Chops
 or Rib Eye

Follow us on Facebook:
[Gary SD Post 109 Supper Club](#)
[Gary American Legion Dance Hall](#)

Gary Area Community Club

BINGO

Sunday | **Feb. 16** | 2025
 Gary, SD American Legion Dance Hall

Bingo* 1pm
 10 Games + Jackpot Round
Book - \$10
 10 games
Jackpot Card - \$5
 Limit 5 cards per player

Jackpot
\$513.75

Wheel Spin
\$5/space
Concessions
 Soda & snacks will be available for purchase.

The Gary Area Community Club will receive 25% of Books and 50% of Jackpot cards sold.
 The first 10 rounds pay out 50% of book sales; the Jackpot receives 25%.
 You must play at least one book (10 games) to play the Jackpot Blackout Round.
 *The Community Club is raising money for our annual July 3rd Celebration!
 Please make all checks payable to the Gary Area Community Club.
 Some daubers will be available for purchase.

**The Gary Historical Association
Museum Membership**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Comments: _____



PayPal

Have you been to our website?
www.experiencegarysd.com

It is loaded with interesting information, including,
Bill Stone's book at:
<http://experiencegarysd.com/billstonebook.cfm>

And the Gary High School Orange Book at <http://experiencegarysd.com/garyschoolorangebook.cfm>

Gary Historical Ass'n is on FaceBook
Please LIKE us there.

The Style

Hair Studio LLC

217 1st Avenue
Gary, SD 57237

Jodi Mercer
(605)277-8880

**JIM'S
MARKET**
CANBY • SLAYTON



811 St. Olaf Avenue North
P.O. Box 148
Canby, Minnesota
507-223-5305
www.jims-market.com

YOU CAN COUNT ON US FOR
Quality • Service • Freshness

Visit the Museum

**Gary Historical
WILL OPEN IF YOU CALL AND
REQUEST A TOUR.
PLEASE CONTACT:**

Ellen Schulte
605-272-5295

Carolynn Webber
605-272-5777

Gary Historical Ass'n Officers 2021 - 2022

President - Patti Haas
Vice President - Ellen Schulte
Secretary - Gene Hults
Treasurer - Barb Stangeland

Board Members: Albert Bekaert, Carolynn Webber, and
Pam Hults.



If you have any story ideas or questions pertaining to the Gary area that could develop into an article, feel free to email them to ghainterstate@gmail.com.