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Clear Lake (605)874-2191

Memories of Easter

by Patti Haas



Not the Kaiser sisters, just a stock photo of classic 1960s Easter outfits.

As a child in the 1960's, my memories of Easter included attending mass on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Mom would sew matching dresses for us three girls and one for herself. She was a very talented seamstress as were most women in those days. One year, our dresses were dotted Swiss fabric in pastel colors of yellow, green, blue and



pink. And bonnets, we always had Easter bonnets. The boys would wear white shirts with dark dress pants and bow ties, as I recall. Remember, these clothes were made of cotton fabric which required ironing and then try to keep us six kids looking presentable on the ride to church. We had our own individual Easter baskets, saved and stored away from year to year alongside the Christmas decorations. We didn't buy new every season as money was a bit harder to come by and it would be wasteful to do anything else but reuse. So recycle those baskets we did. In the baskets there would be found one hollow chocolate bunny and jellybeans buried in the plastic glass. I still don't care for the black jellybeans. No toys or games or books as, once again, money was hard to come by. I don't remember any outdoor Easter egg hunts but we were thankful and excited for what we received and didn't feel disadvantaged. Besides, the real lessons of Easter were the fasting and penance to prepare for Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday morning.



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Fairchild Farmgirl – Prom & Flowers!

So far April has been busy for the Fairchilds. Right at the end of March, we were down in Nebraska for our daughter's boyfriend's prom. First weekend in April his family came up here for Canby prom. So much fun. All the kids were home with some even staying the night, it was like summer camp. Kids were running to each other's rooms, watching movies etc. It was awesome. Mom's like that kind of thing you know. Also, the first of April was special- we celebrated Ron. He's almost 60!

Speaking of Ron, he's already been getting calls to till gardens. I'm lucky to have bought some seed for ours. Do any of you have your gardens planned out? What kind of planner are you? I confess, usually I like to draw it out on a paper and have a key to it. I know...NERDY! But so far this year I haven't had time.

Last year Tedd, our youngest, wanted a job so badly but was only in the 5th grade. So I helped him grow flowers to sell. We sold in Watertown every Saturday and it was a great learning experience. For example, I learned that I did a lot more work than he did. And we still split the money 50/50. Jokes aside though, it was super fun. We planted, we hoed, we weeded, and we did learn a lot about flowers and what we were going to plant and what we weren't.

Last year we planted about 10 varieties of sunflowers. This year we are NOT. They were pretty, but they were tall and hard to pull in the fall, and let's face it...the wind was not their friend. Oh and we are still pulling them out this spring and it's a pain. There are enough wild sunflowers here on the farm that we can use those in our bouquets. Another flower we will not be planting again is Cosmos. They're just too delicate and too much plant for the flower if that makes sense. However, there's a variety with a double bloom that I'd consider but otherwise, no. My favorite flower we planted? Zinnias. Zinnias are such a workhorse. I'm getting them in a zillion colors this year. I love them and they are almost hard to kill.

The most fun we had though? Going filler flower hunting! We would fill five-gallon pails and put them in the truck, grab some scissors or pruning shears and take off. We'd drive slowly around the section and pick wild roses, bunny tail grass, Indian Grass, Goldenrod, seed heads, Snow on the Mountain, and so much more. I was just scrolling through my photos trying to remember which wildflowers in our bouquets...so maybe I will grow a few breeds of sunflowers. They're just so beautiful and I did have great luck with some dusty rose-colored ones.

Anyway, I'm excited to try some large Asters that vary from silver all the way to dark purple. LOVE! Oh, am I going to plant veggies this year? That's a no for me. I can just buy them at the farmers' market!



Have a wonderful April,
until next time,
Fairchild "I'm getting my sketch
pad out right now" Farmgirl



Conservationist of the Year

It all starts with a vision, a dream, which is molded over years of hard work and dedication. A vision that is fostered at a young age from a seed that is planted into the next generation. This story starts not with just this individual, but also the generation before that instilled in him to be conservation minded.

When the property was first bought in the 1950's by Bill Stone, it was a working farm. Bill was also conservation minded and immediately began a conservation program that was compatible with his farming practices. This included a tree planting program and habitat development for all wildlife. This passion for conservation continued with his son, William, after Bill's passing.

Since 1990, Will has enrolled in several tree programs that have added over 15,000 shrubs and trees to the landscape. As the farming operation was phased out, he slowly enrolled the acres into the Grassland CRP programs from the late 90's into the early 2000's. Not wanting to see the habitat be cropped again and to protect the wetlands, he was able to enroll into the Grassland and Wetland easement programs in the late 2000's. This has resulted in 245 acres of grassland and 40 acres of wetlands being protected forever.

He did not stop there. Food plots have been established on the remaining acres with up to 10 acres planted annually. Several ditches existed that drained crucial wetlands. Small earthen dams were created to hold the water back and, today, this land



Will Stone and his family. Missing spouse Fay, daughter Mandy, and some grandkids.

is thriving with waterfowl and upland game.

Will continues to execute his vision by spading over 500 trees in the past 10 years, eradicating volunteer trees that have encroached into the grasslands and implementing habitat management plans. As you can see, conservation is not a one and done activity, but a continual improvement of the property for the betterment of all wildlife.

Over the years, Will has been an advocate to others to do what they can to put habitat on the ground. From those conversations, he has helped add 640 acres of crucial habitat to the area in the past 10 years.

Will Stone's impact on conservation will reach into the lives of future generations.

"Congrats to Will Stone on being cited for a lifetime of wildlife conservation work when he was named the Pheasants Forever Coteau Prairie Chapter Conservationist of the Year."

Thank you to Heath Stone for contributing to this article.

– Patti Haas

Early Pioneers of Gary, SD

The Huffman families settled seven miles east of Gary in Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota in the early 1870's. These families included Henry(Sr) and Ann Mulholland Huffman and their sons, Henry Edward Huffman and his wife Margaret Hendry and John Jacob Huffman and his wife Sarah Neville. The Huffman families immigrated from Ontario, Canada in 1864 and 1865. By 1870, they were in Winona, Minnesota working as farmers and carpenters. Maude Huffman Leshner, daughter of Henry E. and Margaret, was born in Yellow Medicine County in 1871. Henry E. homesteaded in Section 6 of Hammer Township, receiving his patent on June 13, 1881. It's interesting that he settled on the W 1/2 of the NE 1/4 and the E 1/2 of the NW 1/4. Did this make the remaining 80-acre parcels less desirable to other settlers, therefore ensuring the opportunity to acquire this land in the future? A 1913 atlas of Yellow Medicine County indicates that Henry E. and Margaret had been residents of the county for 41 years at that time. They were the parents of eleven children.

John J. Huffman, brother to Henry E., homesteaded the E1/2 of the NE 1/4 and received his patent on May 10, 1882. John also had a Timber Culture claim across the county line in Lac Qui Parle County. The Timber Culture Act allowed homesteaders to acquire an additional 160 acres of land if they would plant one fourth of this new land to trees. John and Sarah were the parents of seven children raised on the homestead. Several of the younger generation returned to Canada to homestead in Saskatchewan around the turn of the century.

Ann Mulholland Huffman accompanied her husband and sons to Yellow Medicine County in the very early 1870's. She died in 1873 and is buried in Grandview Cemetery. Her husband Henry (Sr) remarried in 1880 to Johanna Rodgers and passed away in 1886. He, too, rests in Grandview Cemetery. Johanna applied for and received a patent on the W1/2 of the NW1/4 of Section 6 of Hammer Township as the widow of Henry (Sr) on May 5, 1888. Kent and Jane Goplen are now the stewards of these homesteads.

During the families' early years in Minnesota, their occupations were those of farmers and carpenters. Later, Henry E. started Huffman Hardware (1909) in nearby Gary. The 1910 census lists him as a dealer in hardware and his son, Edward, as a hardware salesman. Henry built the Huffman Building on the west side of Coteau Street in 1911. His son, Edward B. Huffman, worked alongside him and continued to operate the hardware store after the death of his father in 1916. It evolved into various hardware stores operated by others until the 1940's and the building was used as a cafe until the 1970's. It was torn down in 1976 or 1977.

Side note - Wyss Recreation was housed in the Huffman Building in the years 1952-1957. See accompanying Gary Interstate article pertaining to the Beer Bust.

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Auto Supplies
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November 11, 1910
Gary Interstate



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Huffman Hardware

See the name "COLE'S" on the Front of the Door.

Local Items | Export - Across the country

Gary Interstate

Beer Bust



Rephrasing of the article from August 4, 1955, Gary Interstate pictured on the left: **Minnesota Boys Arrested Buying Beer**

Five juvenile boys (four age 16, one age 15) from Granite Falls were arrested in Gary on Friday, July 29, 1955. The 5 boys had purchased beer at the pool hall in Gary and were arrested by Sheriff Andrew Helgeson. They had in their possession 9 six-packs of beer. The boys were held in custody until Monday morning, August 1, when they appeared in Juvenile Court at Clear Lake where they all entered pleas of guilty.

The boys were each sentenced to the State Training School at Plankinton, SD until they reached the age of 21 years, but the sentence was suspended if they adhered to the following conditions:

- Behave as law-abiding citizens!
- Pay the costs of the court/holding.
- Stay out of the state of South Dakota until they reach legal age, unless accompanied by their parents

On Wednesday, August 3rd, Arnold Wyss pled guilty to having sold the youth “some” six-packs of beer and was fined \$200. The \$200 fine was suspended upon payment of \$50 and costs.

It’s amazing how times have changed. Can you imagine a teenager leaving home on Friday and not hearing from them until Monday because they were arrested. In 1955 teens weren’t connected electronically. They didn’t have the ability to call home on their cell phone to say, “Hey mom/dad, I’m in trouble.” And the court sentence – take your pick: spend the next 5 or 6 years in a State Training School or shape up. I’d say the statute of limitations is up. Who has a good story they want to share?

Rhubarb - the misunderstood vegetable

I was checking out my kitchen garden today and I see the rhubarb is beginning to unfurl. It seems every farm or abandoned farmyard has a rhubarb patch. Does it grow wild on the prairie? It was introduced by the early settlers to this area. It is a very resilient plant that has few diseases or bothersome insects, so it does appear to 'grow wild on the prairie'.

Rhubarb is a popular and hardy vegetable that can thrive in the prairie environment, particularly in the northern states where it tolerates our cold winters. It is the earliest of the perennial vegetables in this area but why is it a vegetable when we use it like a fruit? Pies, crisps, cobblers, jams and sauces and rhubarb wine - the list goes on. These are all made from a vegetable?? This can't be!

Botanically, it is a vegetable because of its edible stalk. A fruit is defined as a mature ovary containing seeds - think of an apple or a peach. But now I question - are tomatoes fruits? What about peas and beans? To make this all the more confusing, the USDA classified rhubarb as a fruit for customs purposes starting in 1947 because tariffs on fruits coming into the country were less than those on vegetables.

Rhubarb is high in vitamin C and fiber, making it a very healthy vegetable. But only the rhubarb leafstalk is suitable for human consumption. The leaves themselves contain oxalic acid and can be quite poisonous. Be careful harvesting after a frost as this can cause the oxalic acid to move into the stalks. To harvest, pull the stalk up from the base. remove the leaves and leave them in the garden to shade the soil and prevent weeds.

Now into the kitchen to bake up some rhubarb crisp for dessert.

A Look Back

100 years ago, April 1925

Jr class to present "Maidens All Forlorn"
 Fire in banking of Will Stone house
 3 tires and a spare were stolen from Roy Heaton car
 'Trade at Home' campaign
 All males over age 21 need fishing license
 Births: Boy to Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Almos
 Girl to Mr. & Mrs. Del Grotjohn
 Deaths: Jessie Oliver – Bodener -
 Anna Lightfoot

75 years ago, April 1950

Mail train service discontinues April 28th
 Angel Choir to perform Palm Sunday
 Hay fire at Harold Helmberger home
 Senior Who's Who—Raymond Eng and Josephine Law
 Auction: Fenton and Mrs. Paul Gilbert
 Birth: Boy to Mr. & Mrs. Jim Moskal
 Marriages: Vivian Langdon & Lowell Hunt
 Verna Stevens & Ray Donaldson
 Death: Katie McNamara

50 years ago, April 1975

EROS taking new look at old site
 SD weather modification program will begin May 1st
 Mary Jo Dwinell at Hands scientific sessions
 Jr - Sr prom held April 12th
 Jr class presents "Hob-goblin House"
 Senior of the Week—Ginger Wiese
 Auction: Les & Darlene Gage, Warner Volk
 Birth: Girl to Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Asmusson
 Death: M. Naomi Mathews

25 years ago, April 2000

Gary AAL Branch honored with Gold Star rating
 John Weir elected mayor
 Deaths: Marie Pottratz - Alice Hartsell-
 Marie Severson

Rock Island Cookstove

Just a footnote on last month's article about wood burning kitchen stoves - Look what showed up at Regnier's Auction in Canby last month.



Such a pretty cream and green porcelain finish makes it look brand new. This Bakewell Riverside model was manufactured by the Rock Island Stove Company from Rock Island, Illinois sometime prior to 1929. That is when the company went out of business following the stock market crash of '29. It sold for \$275 on the auction, which is pretty good considering it probably only cost \$30 or so when originally purchased. If I only had a chimney, I would have brought it home.



July 28, 1955
 Which Huffman would this be
 and where was it located?

Marion Denekamp Day Proclaimed

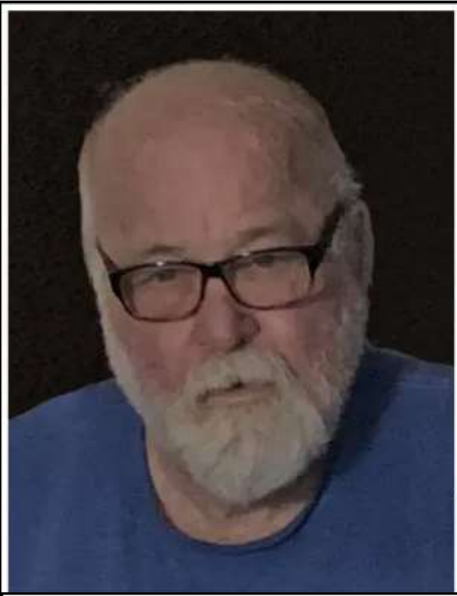


Mayor Stoks proclaimed April 12, 2025, to be Marion Denekamp Day - a rousing good time was had by all thanks to the musical talents of the Larry Olson Band.



**Happy 95th Birthday
Marion!**





November 15, 1937
- April 6, 2025

James "Jimmy" L. Giesel, Sr., James Lee "Jimmy" Giesel, Sr., was born to John P Giesel & Irene (Barkve) Wagner on November 15, 1937, in Ocheyedan, Iowa. He grew up around the Ocheyedan & Hartley area where his mother stayed after his parents divorced. He also spent time with his father and stepmother John P & Dorothy (Stauffacher) Giesel in Clear Lake, SD.

Jim joined the US Navy in January 1955 and did his boot camp in San Diego, CA. He then went to school in Hutchinson, KS for a Fire Rescue crew. He said he liked it because he never had to stand in line at the cafeteria. Then it was off to Great Bend KS for 18 months. Jim did two tours on the Lyman K Swenson. He was discharged in November of 1958 in San Francisco, CA.

Jim then married his first wife Jane (Huebner) Kraus in 1959. To this marriage, two children were born. Jane & Jim divorced in the late 1960's, and he married Karen (Grogan) Warn in November of 1971 and divorced in 1980. They had three children. Jim & Karen bought and sold 13 different bars & steakhouses during this marriage. They moved to Hartley, IA from Gary, SD in 1977 to help his mother run Red's Cafe during her medical issues. He also raised hogs and did a short-term position as Assistant Chief of Police in Sanborn, IA. After they divorced, he went to California for a short time and then returned to Clear Lake, SD. Jim then bought the Cafe and neighboring building. That was the birth of Jimmy's Cafe and The Mustang Pizza. He also owned Charlies Place and a bar in Marietta for a short time. Jim owned and rented out several homes in Clear Lake. He sold the Cafe and retired in early 2005. He started spending his winters in Nevada and then Texas, until his health started to diminish. Jim also was an avid rare coin collector and enjoyed buying classic cars. This was a hobby he shared with his two sons, Jimmy, Jr., and Chad. He also enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle. Buying and selling was in his blood.

Jim is survived by his five children: Kimberly (Dan) Robb of Vernon Center, MN, Brad Giesel and special friend Kelley Grover of Madison, WI., Jimmy (Robbie) Giesel, Jr. of Clear Lake, Chad Giesel and his special friend Crystal Beutke and her three children, also from Clear Lake, SD, Becky (Jamie) Resmen of Garretson, SD; five grandchildren; six great grandchildren and one great great-grandchild; his half-brother Paul (Kay) Giesel and half-sister Judy (Mike) Ahlers both of Clear Lake and several nieces and nephews and his stepmother Dorothy Giesel of Watertown.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John P. Giesel and Mr. and Mrs. Kent (Irene Barkve) Wagner of Hartley, Iowa.

Visitation is Saturday, April 19, 2025, from 10:00AM - 12:00PM at Houseman Funeral Home.

Jim's final resting place will be Lakeview Cemetery, Clear Lake, SD.


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*September 23, 1952
- March 14, 2025*

Judy Christine Shogren (Denekamp), aged 72, of Goodyear, passed away on March 14, 2025. She was born on September 23, 1952, in Canby, Minnesota, to the late John and Esther Denekamp. Along with her parents, Judy's passing was preceded by her ex-husband, David Stenmoe, and nephew, David Denekamp, Jr.

Judy is survived by her devoted husband, Paul Shogren, and her beloved children: Michelle "Mikki" Detwiler and Jonathan Stenmoe. She is also survived by the wonderful children she obtained through her union with Paul: Andrea (Austin) Hanson, Lucas (Stephanie) Shogren, Danielle (Drew) Mahar, and Zachary (Anna) Shogren, as well as the 16 wonderful grandchildren they provided: Haley, Ethan, Hudson, Hannah, Hadley, Harper, Caleb, Blake, Reese, Raegan, Beckett, Brody, Blaine, Berge, Abe, and Ruth. Additionally, she is survived by her siblings: brothers Don Denekamp (sister-in-law Janelle Denekamp) and David Denekamp (sister-in-law Judy Denekamp); her sister, Darlene Evans (deceased, brother-in-law Bruce Evans); her sisters-in-law Deb, Jan, Cindy, and Lisa; and a host of nieces, nephews, and other extended family and friends.

Judy and Paul's love story began 1,800 miles apart, brought together through a mutual friend. Judy was working in Arizona at the time, whereas Paul was in Minnesota. But distance only made the heart grow fonder, and it brought Judy and Paul closer together. There was no amount of space that could keep the sparks from flying, helping their friendship blossom into long-distance love and eventually into holy matrimony in November of 2008. After marriage, they relocated to Minnesota for a time to work in Paul's chiropractic office before retiring back to the Arizona sunsets where they originally met. In these later years, Judy was a fond member of The Refinery Church in Goodyear and was also known as a "Moosette" at the local Moose Lodge, also located in Goodyear.

Whether she was quilting in the peacefulness of home, golfing outdoors in the pleasant weather, going on girls' trips somewhere in the world, or spending time with her family, Judy's heart was always full. One of her proudest moments was traveling through Italy as one of the "3 Amigos" with friends Deb Hudson, Michele Bogan, and a few other close friends. Another proud moment was hiking 17 miles of the Grand Canyon with her friend, Sue Coleman, in a single day. Whether she traveled near or far, Judy always found beauty in the world and shared that beauty with others. Her love for her family, her community, and her hobbies knew no bounds. Family and friends would say Judy was the best mother, nana, and a wonderful friend.

As we celebrate her life, we are reminded to cherish every moment, lend a hand to those in need, and always find joy in the company of loved ones.

There will be a committal service for Judy at the Grandview Cemetery in Gary SD on Saturday, June 28 at 10:30 AM.





Gary Area Community Club & Gary Legion Auxiliary

EASTER Festivities

FRIDAY | APRIL 18 | 2025

6:30 PM

American Legion Dance Hall

BUNNY RUN

EGG HUNT

Ages 0 to 10

Free Games & Prizes!!!

With a visit from the Easter Bunny!

Doors open at 6 pm

PLEASE REGISTER NO LATER THAN 6:30 PM!

Please wear tennis shoes that will stay securely on your feet!

Prizes will be given for best Easter attire!

You will receive further instruction during registration.

Spring DANCE

A Youth Dance (ages to 18) will follow at the Gary American Legion Hall! Admission: \$10; \$30 family max. Chaperone required for kids 9 & under.

Pancake Breakfast

FUNDRAISER

Come out and support the Gary American Legion Dance Hall and enjoy a delicious stack of pancakes served with eggs and sausage!

SATURDAY, JULY 5th • 8 AM-10AM

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ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Gary American Legion Dance Hall
205 1st Ave
Gary, SD

A close-up photograph of a tall stack of golden-brown pancakes. A pat of butter is melting on top, and syrup is drizzled over the stack, dripping down the sides.

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Club*

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**TRACK
THE JACK**

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THE FIRST DRAWING WILL BE AT 6 PM
WITH A NEW DRAWING EVERY 15
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The Gary Givers

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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

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Pam Hulst.



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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.