



Gary (605)272-5233

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D.A.MN!

*They're riding right across the state in a single day.
"You must be crazy," I have heard some less ambitious say.
Two hundred forty miles the goal, the distance west to east.
I'm hoping for them westerlies, part of the way at least.
Cuz headwinds for that distance would be quite a pain,
maybe worse than thunderstorms, hail, and heavy rain.*

*Though I might add, that one day, 160 miles
I did cross much of Iowa. Was lacking in the smiles,
for I had all that weather, and oft against the breeze.
At the end of that ordeal, I hurt worst in my knees,
but that was many years ago. My Schwinn weighed 40 pounds.
I trust that these have lighter bikes, as they pedal round.
Though I've heard a rumor ones riding a one-speed.
Now that is brave, I must admit, for I would have the need,
for 10, at least, or 15, better on 18,
up and down those hills on one, I wouldn't be so keen.*

*And what is this? I hear that they are going all on gravel.
I've done too many miles of that. On paved, I like to travel.
But "God's speed" I wish this crew and that is no joke.
But with those fires in Canada, I hope there's not much smoke.
For when you're grinding 'cross the state from one edge to another,
you like to have clear air to breathe. For it would be a bother,
to travel in the haze and smoke 400 kilometers.
I hope that not too many of them end up being wheezers.*

-Wally Firesteel, aka Phil Trieb

Horse Power

Putting Up Hay
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Fairchild Farmgirl

Just Enough Pots in the Fire
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It's Back!
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Bikers at the starting line in Gary, SD.

August 2nd, 2025. The Day Across Minnesota. Two hundred and forty miles of Minnesota gravel roads by bicycle in a single day. Midnight to midnight. Start in Gary, South Dakota and finish in Hager City, Wisconsin. This race was held annually from 2017 to 2021, which was to be the last year. It started again in 2024 and continues today. They ride on gravel roads, minimum maintenance roads, slimy, clay-based roads, whatever. They ride through the night with temperatures that can drop into the mid-forties, through smoke-filled air from the fires in Canada, beautiful meteor showers and amazing sunrises. They ride uphill and down, maintaining their bodies as well as their bikes on this arduous adventure for the simple joy of finishing.



Cory and Beth Rood riding a tandem bike across Minnesota. 2021 was the first-year tandem bikes attempted the D.A.Mn.



Christopher Stevens finished the 2025 D.A.Mn Men's race at 12:06 PM, just a bit over 12 hours. Alyssa Larish finished the Women's 2025 race at 3:02 PM. The 2024 race had the best finish, Innokenty Zavyalov finished in 11:16 and Claire O'Leary finished in 13:09. There was also a Double D.A.Mn 480 where the riders reached Wisconsin and turned around and came back to Gary. The winner, Corey Rood, took 35 hours to complete this monumental task.

You've Got to Make Hay When the Sun Shines

That's a bit challenging this year as we've had a very adequate supply of rainfall. Farmers have been trying to work around the showers to put up good quality feed. The modern weather forecasting helps a lot. But what about the years during which this area was being settled? Everyone operated on 'horse power'. Farmers had to put up hay to feed their teams of horses as well as their cattle. The townspeople also had horses for pulling their carriages or buggies and a milk cow to feed as well. The livery barns needed hay to feed the horses being put up there as well as the ones they hired out. The drayman had a team to keep fed, too. That's a lot of hay to make and all was done by horse power.



Work horses consume approximately 1-2% of their weight in hay daily depending on the level of activity. A 1000-pound horse could eat 15 to 25 pounds of hay or more per day. This computes to about 4 tons of hay per work horse per year. Multiply that by the number of work horses, add in some for the driving horses and the cattle and farmers may need twenty tons of hay or more to feed their stock for the year. Grass hay yields 2-3 tons per acre, so farmers needed to harvest a minimum of 10 acres to feed a team and a cow or two.

The use of the scythe to harvest grass dates back to biblical times. Even though we still find the scythes in this area, by the 1890's, most hay was cut using the horse drawn sickle mowers that had been developed in the early 1800's during the industrial age. These mowers greatly reduced the physical labor required to cut hay. The earliest mowers had very short sickle bars - 3.5 feet in length. Compare this to today's mowers and hay bines that cut a swath 16 feet wide.

Continued on page 6.



Fairchild Farmgirl

Wow, was that July that just whizzed past us? August, here we are! Here at the Fairchild Ranchero, things are moving at lightning speed. The boys will be starting football practice before we know it, we need to go school shopping, and if you're in the mood to travel a bit and see yours truly, I'll be at the Steele County Free fair in Owatonna, August 11-18.

It all looks so good on paper, but then as the days unfold, I always realize how over committed I am. Like this show. You know I love a good vender show, I love the fair goers and schlepping my handmade, heartfelt goods. But if you can believe this, my people here at home get a little sick of me talking 24/7. Down there I'll have a brand-new captive audience for a whole week and I'm taking advantage! Let's be honest, I'll be vending indoors and they'll want to escape from the heat. It's a win win.

But seriously, this overcommitting stuff. I had this show planned since January, so I'm not going to bail and besides, it's paid for. Then a few weeks ago, we get an email from the foreign exchange student placement that we've worked with in the past. They needed homes for 20 kids, "and you've done such a great job in the past, would you please consider doing it again?"

Fine. We signed up, we want kids to have an American experience, and it's fun for us. So we looked around our farm and house-really looked at the place. Jeepers...was this a good idea? Well it was too late to change our minds...we were committed. Seriously though, I've seen junk yards more organized. Well...it wasn't that bad, but still. We worked on the yard, weeding, mowing, hauling farm junk, organizing farm junk, etc. The kids complained, saying this better be a great experience or else. Next was the house-I've seen junk yards more organized. Kidding...or am I? We purged, we cleaned, we painted...again the kids and I sweat, worked our little fingers to the bone, huffed and chuffed and got this old lady of a house looking decent. It took all of these two weeks for this project. I got a call yesterday from their corporate that the person that was the coordinator quit and since there's not a coordinator in our area, we probably weren't getting one anymore. My kids-devastated. Were still unfolding that issue...they might somehow make it work, but a little part of me that feels I over commit is doing a dance of joy. Is it a sign?

Then, I vend at a few farmers markets each week, it went from one, to four. Because Ron said I need to sign on a few more and shows for more income, so more schlepping. Which is fine it has me running. But then, the grand daddy of all over commitments came to me and I have to say, this has me so excited I can't even stand it and I will take it! Long term subbing as the art teacher for the first semester and probably the whole year at the school I sub for on a short-term basis. Really my jam!!

Until next time,

Fairchild "Overcommitting is my love language" Farmgirl

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A Look Back...

100 years ago, August 1925

Mr. Maland, his daughter and William Banwarth take a spill when truck went over an embankment

Sheriff will arrest anyone driving without 2 headlights.

Frames for foundation of boys' dormitory laid at SD State School for the Blind

Birth: Boy to Mr. & Mrs. E.E. Eng

Death: Mrs. Bertha Hulderson

75 years ago, August 1950

Carnival and street sports on August 9-10

Kenneth Newell new school superintendent

Crowd enjoys doll buggy parade & soap box derby

School opens September 5

Marriage: Ruth Sanden & Stanley Thorson

Death: Mary E. Cobb

50 years ago, August 1975

Gate City Men's golf tournament August 24

No burning of any kind at Gary dump

Gary School opening August 25

4th annual amateur rodeo August 23-24

Auction: Mrs. Anna Winrow

25 years ago, August 2000

Becky Hansen named new editor of Gary Interstate

14th annual Appreciation Days!

It appears we have reached the end of published copies of the Gary Interstate, new "old things" to come.

Buffalo Supper

The Buffalo Supper originated with the Methodist Men's Club who ran it until it grew to be more of an event than the church basement could accommodate. In 1967, the Gary Historical Association sponsored the event on October 29th in the American Legion Hall. As many as 1000 people were fed in seatings of 200. The menu included roast buffalo, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, cranberry relish, milk, coffee, pickles, and assorted breads. Dessert was assorted cakes, later becoming ice cream Dixie cups. The buffalo was sourced from the Sutton Brothers' Ranch near Onida, SD and brought back to Gary where the "cut-up committee" would cut the roasts and grind the burger at Walt's Locker. The roasts were then cooked in various ovens around town until ready for serving. In later years, electric roasters were purchased and used to prepare the meat in one location. The entire community worked peeling and mashing potatoes, making gravy, cooking corn and making coffee on the day of the supper. Several days prior, oranges, apples, and lemons were cut, peeled and ground along with cranberries to make the famous cranberry relish. Many volunteers were needed to make the supper a success. The serving was a buffet line with young girls serving beverages and clearing and resetting tables for the next supper sitting. And then there was the clean-up crew, washing dishes and trays. There was a job for everyone! And as with so many things in a small town, by working together, the event was a success. The last Buffalo Supper was held in the 1990s.

On August 30th the Buffalo Supper returns at the 109 Club. Come out for the memory, come out for the great food, come out to support your area nonprofits.



Buffalo Supper

Saturday

August 30, 2025 | 5:30 – 8:30 PM

Or until we run out!

Gary American Legion 109 Club
1107 Coteau St.
Gary, SD 57237

Roast Buffalo, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Cranberry Relish, Dinner Roll, Coffee, Milk & Dessert

ADULTS - \$25
CHILDREN 12 & Under - \$15
3 & UNDER - FREE



RESERVE YOUR MEAL ONLINE OR
CONTACT THE 109 CLUB DURING
BUSINESS HOURS ON SATURDAY,
AUG 16TH 5:30PM -8:30PM
(605) 272-5832

ALL TICKET SALES GO TO REPAIRS
OF THE 109 SUPPER CLUB!



Haying continued

Historical mowers consisted of a ground driven gear box that moved the sickle back and forth. It ran behind teeth or guards that would hold the grass in place for cutting. Most designs had a seat for the operator to ride on, but some required the farmer to walk alongside the implement. These mowers could cut between 5 and 10 acres of grass per day depending on mower width, hay density, and field conditions (hilly, rocky, etc.). But the farmers were still at the mercy of unpredictable weather as weather forecasting was not yet developed.



Now that the hay was cut, it would lay in the field to dry and cure. Wet hay could heat and spoil. There was also the danger that it would spontaneously combust and burn. Walter Wood developed the spring-tooth dump rake in 1833, and it was widely used in the early years in this area. The horse-drawn rake would crisscross the hay field and gather grass into windrows by dumping hay in uniform rows. It was important to only rake the amount of hay that could be put into the barn on that day. If the hay should be rained on (remember, no weather forecasts were available) it would be fluffed with a hay tedder to facilitate quick and even drying. These early tedders are interesting to watch in motion - You Tube has videos of this machine in use. They look like mechanical spiders walking and tossing the hay.



Mowers and rakes definitely increased hay production, but the invention of the hay loader saved the farmers' backs. Prior to that, loose hay was gathered from the ground and loaded on to wagons manually with pitchforks. It was a backbreaking and painfully slow job during the dog days of summer. Hay loaders were developed prior to the Civil War. The hay loader gathered hay from the windrows and lifted it to the wagon rack, eliminating the manual labor previously required. As before, a man using a pitchfork distributed the hay on the hay wagon. The hay loader was pulled behind the horse-drawn hay wagon. Use of the hay loader endured for more than 50 years until the development of the hay press (hay baler). The Gary Historical Association has a Minneapolis Moline hay loader in our museum machine shed. It was built after 1929, which is the date the company was formed.



Now that the hay has been gathered, it needed to be stored in a manner to protect it from the elements. If the farmer had a barn, the hay could be stored in the hay loft. A 30 x 40-foot barn could hold approximately 40 tons of loose hay in the loft. The hay could be pitched into the haymow by hand or through the use of a mechanical hay carrier. The wagons of hay would be brought to the barn where a grapple of some sort would be lowered to the wagon to gather the hay. Some farmers used a rope sling which would have been

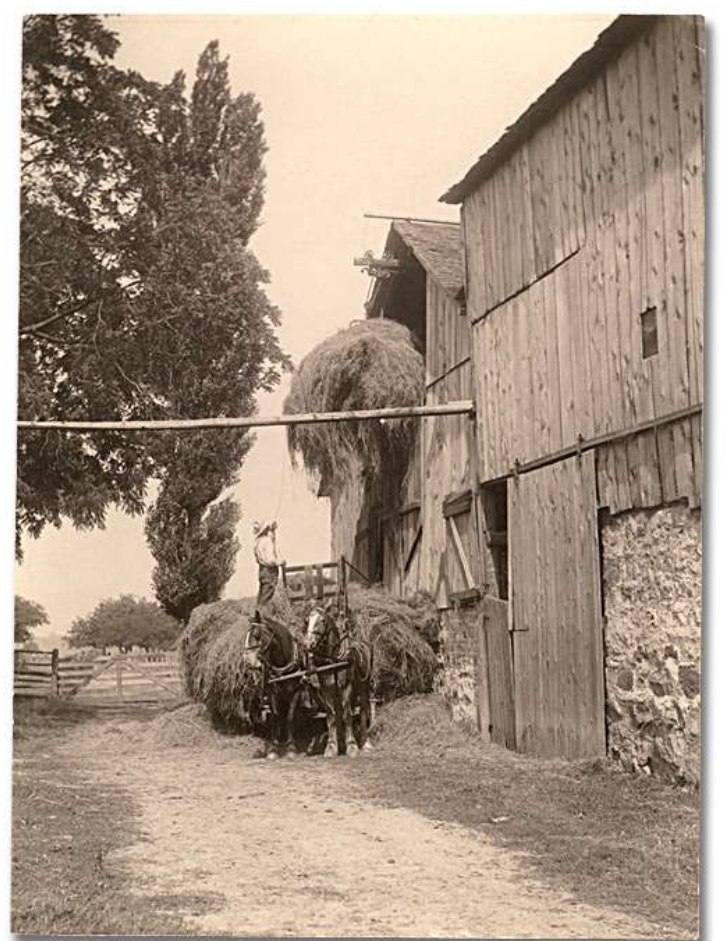


Loading hay into barn. Maxwell farm, Jasper County, Iowa. FSA

placed on the hay wagon before hay was loaded. A horse is attached to a rope which pulls the grapple of hay or sling to the rail which runs the length of the barn. Once the hay gets to the rail, it moves across the barn to where it needs to be tripped or dumped. The grapple returns to the starting point and the process repeats. The workers in the haymow would spread and pack the hay to the outside edges of the hayloft.

If the farmer did not have a barn or needed more hay than would fit in the barn, loose haystacks were built. The hay would be spread and packed to create a stack that would stand up against the winds. It would be topped off in a manner that would help to shed rain. They also built hay sheds with roofs made of grass hay with a two-fold purpose - hay storage and livestock shelter. Growing up on the farm, we loose-stacked hay as we did not have a baler. We did use a hay frame which helped to make the stacks straight. The hay was dumped into the frame and we four older kids would pack hay firmly into the corners to create a strong stack. Some of these stacks were later moved into the farmyard to feed livestock during winter if the fields were not accessible.

The hay press answered the need to move and store greater quantities of hay more efficiently. A cubic foot of loose hay weighs about 5 pounds. The early balers or presses made bales that weighed 15 to 30 pounds per cubic foot. These early presses were stationary and



operated by horses walking on an inclined treadmill or a horse-power machine. The hay was brought to the machine and forked into the chamber by hand. The plunger compressed the hay and once the bale reached the right size, wire or twine was threaded around the bale and tied by hand. By the 1920's a cubic foot of baled hay weighed 40 pounds and the average bale weighed between 75 to 100 pounds.

Balers, no longer stationary, became more common on Midwest farms in the 1950's. The side-delivery rakes came into use along with the balers as the irregular windrows created by the dump rake caused problems with the balers. Inconsistent bale lengths and problems with the knoter (the mechanism that ties the twine) were issues caused by varied density of the hay in the windrow. Side-delivery rakes made a more consistent windrow to feed into the baler. Bales were wire-tied with an automatic wire twisting mechanism in the early years. This evolved into the twine-tied bales currently produced. Today's machines are capable of building large rectangular bales measuring 3 x 3 x 8 feet and weighing 1000 pounds. These are a more efficient size for hay that must move great distances. Most hay in our area is made into large, round bales covered with plastic bale wrap. These bales also weigh up to 1000 pounds, but the round shape doesn't load as well on a semi or stack as compactly in a hay shed as do the large square bales. Very few small square bales are made today so now the football teams have to work in the weight room to condition rather than stack square bales in the hayloft. That was probably one of the last real hands-on labors of making hay - all else had been mechanized. Sorry, guys, but that's progress!



Words of Thanks

There are no words to express our thankfulness and appreciation for the prayers, thoughts, and all acts of kindness shown to us and our family during our loss. Our family, friends, churches and community have been here for us for whatever we have needed.

Immediately after the tornado passed, our prayers were answered when we heard each other's voices. The second miracle is the overwhelming community support in the clean-up of our farm site.

Psalm 107:1 *"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; his love endures forever."*

God Bless You All,

Stuart and Brenda Almos

Jayden Almos

Dominic Constant



Bradley Charles Rhea

April 18, 1953
- July 30, 2025

Brad Rhea, age 72, of Canby, MN passed away at his home on Sunday, July 20, 2025. A private family graveside memorial service will be held at the Canby City Cemetery in Canby, MN and no public service will be held. Houseman Funeral Home, Birk Chapel in Canby, MN has been entrusted with handling the arrangements.

Brad passed away at his home in Canby on July 20, 2025, at the age of 72 years, 3 months and 2 days.

Those left to cherish Brad's memory are his siblings: Stuart (Jerrilee) Rhea of Canby, MN and Jan (Al) Precht of rural Canby, MN. His nieces and nephews: Allyson (Justin) Hanson and Daniel (Bailey) Yackley, Michael (Sarah) Rhea, Stephanie Remer and Kala (Aaron) Luciano; great-nieces and nephews: Kaiser, Keira, Kimber and Kassidy Hanson, Alexa Luciano, Asher and Adalyn Rhea and Madison Remer, Piper and Dawson Yackley along with numerous cousins and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents: Charles and Marilyn Rhea and his former brother-in-law, Gene Yackley. In lieu of flowers, donations are preferred to Youth Rodeo in care of the Richie Family.

Bradley Charles Rhea was born on April 18, 1953, in Canby, Minnesota to parents Charles and Marilyn Mae (Olson) Rhea. He was raised on the Rhea family dairy farm near Porter, MN where he continued to work as a teenager. When Brad was young his friends called him "Barney." He graduated from Canby High School and then he attended college at Mankato State for two years. Brad had his own exterior painting crew while he attended college. His family owned and operated Shady Beach Supper for 39 years where it was Brad's life's work to make Shady Beach Supper Club our areas dining destination.

Brad enjoyed playing golf, softball and pool during his active years. His most recent enjoyment came from watching golf, baseball, football and in particular pro basketball. He loved the NBA and its tremendous athletes. For years Brad had a love of collecting baseball, basketball and football cards that over the years equated to quite a collection. Brad took pride in his contributions in making the Red Owl softball team one of the best in our area. He loved Jim Huber's nickname for him, "Secret Weapon." He also coached Shady Beach woman's softball team for years where the women really liked Brad.

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**Take Me Out to the Ball Game**

Sat, Aug 16th - Sun, Aug 17th, 2025, NE Women's Slow-pitch Softball Tournament
Goodwin, SD - 1st Game 10AM (Viessman v Goodwin)
Gary Women vs Water Billboards 3:00PM Saturday



Friday ride will begin at 6:30pm
Saturday rides will be at 11:00am and 2:30pm
Saturday Night live music at the Gary Bar!
\$10 per person or \$25 per family



Camping/parking will be on the corner
of Laura and 3rd by buffalo ridge
(picture to show)

Will ride rain or shine!
questions? Call Gena Anhalt
(507)829-6009



Melinda Jenson
July 31 at 2:02 PM · 🌐

The Gary Junior Auxiliary is looking for Red, White, and Blue, or Patriotic themed quilting fabric. Anything is appreciated. We will be making lap blankets as part of the South Dakota Junior Auxiliary yearly project. Lap blankets will be auctioned off at the state convention next year.
Thank you in advance!!

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Upcoming Schedule:
Aug 16th – Smoked Pork Chops
or Rib Eye
Aug 30th – **Buffalo Supper**
Sep 6th – Prime Rib
Sep 20th – Smoked Pork Chops
or Rib Eye
Oct 4th – Prime Rib
Oct 18th – Smoked Pork Chops
or Rib Eye
Nov 1st – Prime Rib
Nov 15th – Smoked Pork Chops
or Rib Eye
Nov 29th – We're Open
Dec 6th – Prime Rib
Dec 20th – Smoked Pork Chops
or Rib Eye
*Hamburgers also available

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

**TWO
WHEELS**

DOUG SIK

**ONE
MISSION**

5k/Benefit

Saturday, September 13, 2025

Registration 8:30 a.m. - Start tme 9:30 a.m.
The Gary Bar, Main Street, Gary, SD

Pre-registration \$30 by August 23, 2025
(guarantees t-shirt)
Registration after August 23 \$30 (no shirt)
Kids 5-10 yrs: \$15 (shirt included)
Kids 4-under free (no shirt)
SILENT AUCTION 8AM-NOON • MEAL@10:30AM
DRAW PARTNER BEAN BAG TOURNEY (registration: 11:15am)

Proceeds will benefit Doug Sik, who was diagnosed with lymphoma and kidney cancer in May. He's been undergoing aggressive treatments, including radiation and chemotherapy, and will soon have surgery to remove a kidney.
Let's show Doug he is not battling this alone!

The Gary Historical Association Museum Membership

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Pam Hults.



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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.