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## A Baptism of Fire!

March 14, 1908

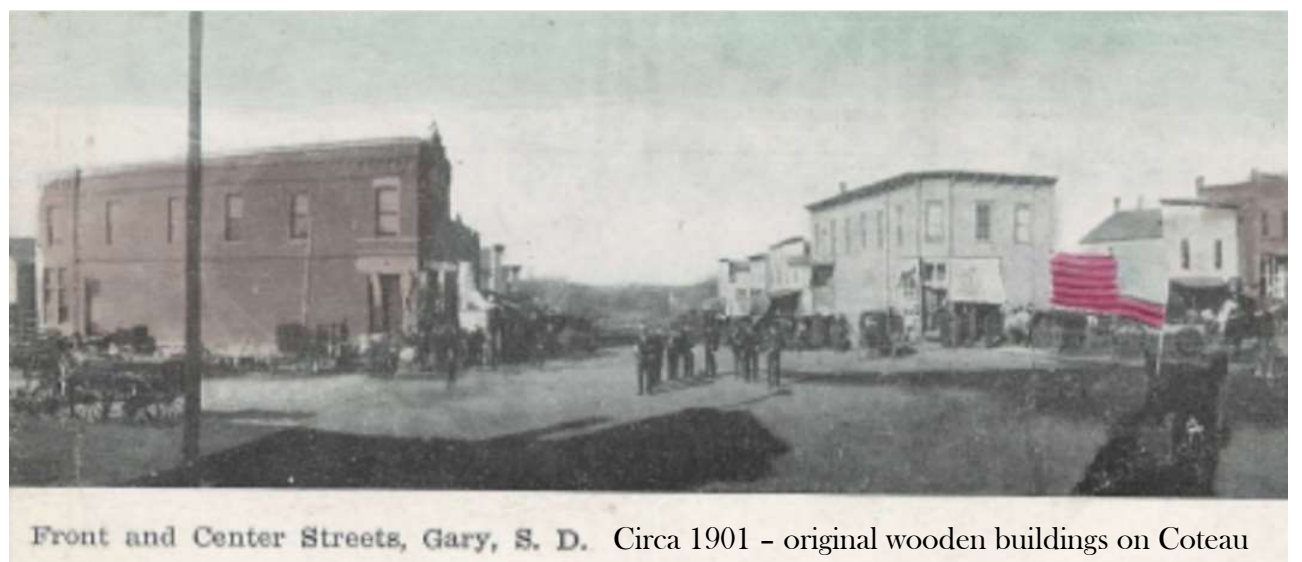
Six Buildings on Coteau Street are Burned to the Ground

Citizens Fight Hard But to No Avail

Lack of Water Renders Futile All Attempts to Stay the Flames - The Absence of Wind A Godsend

### Buildings Burned

*Ole Rushland's  
 Barbershop/Masonic Hall  
 upstairs  
 Fonger's Drug Store  
 Ed Schiltz's Harness Shop  
 Hancock's Pool Hall  
 Vandawarka and Faraum's  
 Cream Station  
 J.V. and H.J. Wells  
 General Merchandise*



Front and Center Streets, Gary, S. D. Circa 1901 - original wooden buildings on Coteau

Saturday night witnessed the worst fire in the history of Gary. Every building from and including the Wade building on the north clear through to the Wells's building on the south is nothing but ashes and debris. A short time before midnight fire was discovered in the rear of Ed Schiltz's harness shop and the alarm was sounded. This building and the ones adjoining were of wood and the flames spread very rapidly and although but a short time elapsed before the streets were filled with men, it was vividly evident that nothing could be done toward checking the flames on account of no water and attention was turned toward saving the contents of the doomed buildings. The front lower part of the Wade building was occupied by Ole Bushland with his barbershop, and he succeeded in saving all of his effects. G.M. Kerney broke into the Masonic Hall on the upper floor and saved the regalia, records, and the Masonic and Eastern Star charters. The rest of the lodge property was burned.

*Continued on page 5.*

### White Buffalo

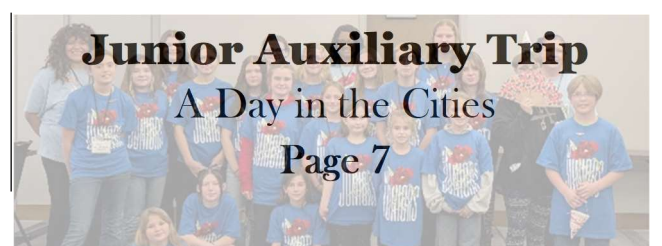
1 in 10 Million

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### Fairchild Farmgirl

Christmas!

Page 3



### Junior Auxiliary Trip

A Day in the Cities

Page 7



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## White Buffalo

We've discovered an interesting phenomenon on the Lazy K Buffalo farm south of Gary. Andy Kallhoff operates the enterprise, and he has purchased a white buffalo bull that is now three years old. According to the National Buffalo Association, ten million bison must be born for one pure white buffalo calf to be born. Genetic testing can determine the source of the white coloring. White buffalo can be the result of three different genetic conditions.

1. Albinism is the total absence of melanin, the pigment that produces color in skin, hair, and eyes. An albino buffalo has pure white hair and pink or red eyes. This condition often includes vision and hearing issues.
2. Leucism involves the reduction in various types of pigments, not just melanin. Leucistic buffalo have white fur but usually retain normal eye color that is blue or black.
3. A third cause of white coloration, more prevalent in modern herds, comes from the introduction of Charolais genes through crossbreeding with domestic cattle. This produces a white or cream-colored coat, but the eyes and underlying skin retain normal coloring.



Kallhoff began raising buffalo in 1978. He was looking for something novel, something different, to keep busy during downtime with his work. He had as many as 250 in a feedlot northeast of Gary. He has raised bulls as large as 3600 to 4800 pounds. This hobby led him to be involved with the filming of the stampede scenes for *Dances With Wolves* where the buffalo were herded with horses, four-wheelers, and pickups. After developing some serious health issues, Andy got out of the buffalo business for

a few years but has now returned on a smaller scale. Andy's bull is believed to be a full-blooded leucistic bison. The buffalo was purchased from a producer near Frederick SD, and the plan is to use him for breeding and, hopefully, produce more white buffalo calves.

Why is the white buffalo so sacred to the native American people, especially the Lakota tribes? White buffalo are respected as symbols of hope, unity, and new beginnings. The source of this reverence is the legend of the White Buffalo Calf Woman. The legend originated around 2000 years ago during a time of famine. The Lakota chief sent two young scouts out to hunt for food. Then, emerging from a fog, they saw a beautiful young native woman dressed in white buckskin. One of the men wished to lie with the woman, the other counseled restraint. This counsel went unheeded and when the young scout approached the woman, a cloud enveloped the couple. When the cloud dissipated, only the woman and a pile of the man's bones remained. The remaining man led the woman back to the Lakota encampment and she taught the Lakota seven sacred ways to pray to protect the Mother Earth and gave them the sacred prayer pipe called the čhaŋnúŋpa.

*Continued on Page 5.*

## Fairchild Farmgirl

Are you in a Christmas rut? I don't mean sad about the season, (but if you are, I wish I could reach out and give you a hug!), but are you not sure about the gifts your giving? That's me. What do I get our oldest that has such a great job that they can get anything their heart desires? And you're on a budget...anyone else follow a Christmas budget besides me, the Christmas present fun killer? As pricey as this holiday can get, I don't know anyone who runs without one.

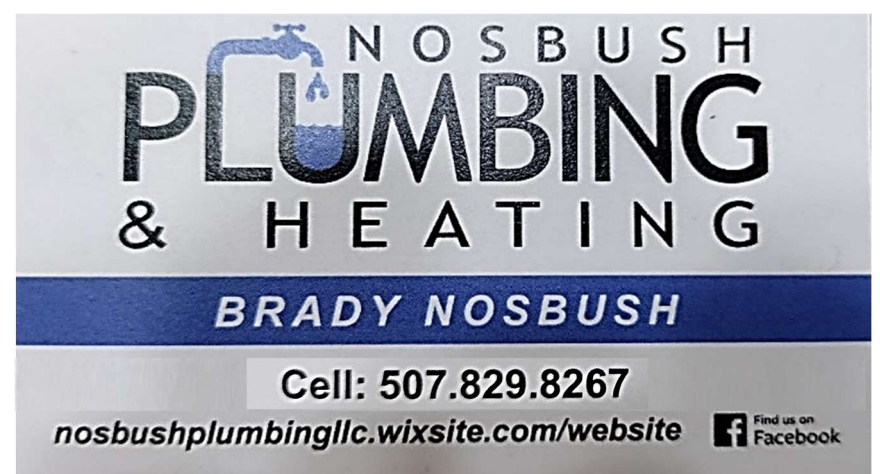
I mean, it's not that bad, but when you set a limit at \$50 per kid and over half have a fiancé or significant other? And you've got 9 kiddos, it gets a little crazy. Although, I will give a nod to Ron, who when asked to make some special gifts in the shop, winks and gets to work. I can't wait for a few special handmade gifts that we are going to give this year. SO cool! I also love the fact our kids appreciate gifts made with love as well.

So I'll be honest, I love homemade gifts the best. There's been some lean years on the ole Fairchild ranchero and we've had to get "Christmas Creative". I remember staying up most of the night making a doll or two, or a stuffed replica of a favorite horse. One of the coolest presents Ron ever gave me was a dining room table, just like I had wanted. It's beautiful, 10 feet long with an additional 3 foot leaf, made of hickory and oak. It even has benches. Then one year he made a spice drawer for our island. Another time I found a cow bone and painted a deer on it. It's one of our favorite pieces and I know Ron was tickled when he opened it up. It's so fun when he'll come in from the shop and say, "Now don't go out in the shop for anything, ok?" It's always such an awesome surprise!

This year, since I have some daughters that sew, I asked one for a Christmas themed table runner. I've never really been a fancy decorator, three reasons for that: money, little kids that would wreck it and time to get things together. Slowly, I'm finding people/family that make things for me and I love that. Last year my daughter Ashlyn made Ron and I wood burning of our old dog Fluffy. It was incredible.

Lastly, what are you doing for Christmas? I hope it's with people and family you enjoy and that you have fun/cheesy/handmade/all together special traditions. At our place, Santa will be hiding gifts somewhere in a barn or shed on Christmas Eve since we don't have a chimney. And as long as you believe, you receive, no matter your age. Everyone will listen for the knock at the door and they'll get on their warm duds and head outside for the present hunt. Of course that's after we've had our appetizer meal that everyone has to make something for, and it's Christmas themed no less.

Until next time,  
Fairchild "you haven't lived until  
you've eaten Tedd's Reindeer Chow"  
Farmgirl





A Look Back...

125 years ago, December 1900

Grand Masque Ball at the Odd Fellows Hall on Christmas night. Twenty couples attend due to opposition to public gatherings when smallpox is so near to us.  
Our band got out on Christmas afternoon and dispensed some choice selections of music to our citizens.  
Gary now has a full-fledged broom factory turning out dozens of brooms a day.  
JV and HJ Wells - Christmas department upstairs in the Wells Store  
Dr. McPeck received word from Dr, Mc/vey that Canby has a genuine case of smallpox.  
Notice of Final Proof - Otto E Troseth, NW 1/4 Sec 26 Twn 115N, Range 48W

100 years ago, December 1925

Men of the Presbyterian church to host oyster supper  
Santa will be in Gary December 18<sup>th</sup>  
High School presents "Clarence Jam"  
Joe Hauger breaks wrist while driving cattle  
Births: Boy to Mr.& Mrs. Merle Rowland  
Girls to Mr.& Mrs. Herman Schmahl  
Mr. & Mrs. Minor Hansen  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Moeller

Dec 1925

Marriages: Tossie Ken & Henry Salem  
Gladys Dawson & Arthur Weinberg  
Cary Leuf & Lester Hubbard  
Alice Winrow & George Meinberg  
Auction: Madison Ice Co. Inc Trustee

75 years ago, December 1950

Santa arrives in Gary December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Legion Bingo Party December 11<sup>th</sup>  
Donald Fritz injured in car crash  
Gary Grain Elevator burns  
Dorothy's Beauty Shop opens  
Birth: Girl to Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Baer  
Marriage: Lena Huettman & Henry Meisner  
Auctions: Russell Anderson

50 years ago, December 1975

Santa Claus coming to town December 20<sup>th</sup>  
Junior Auxiliary meets with Senior Auxiliary for Christmas party  
Chmielewski Brothers Orchestra to play at the Legion Ballroom on December 12<sup>th</sup>, admission \$2.50  
Successful Senior Citizen Bazaar held December 5<sup>th</sup>  
Baby girl to M. & Mrs. Jerry Billiet, grandparents include Rudy & Vera Meyer, gr-grandparents are Howard & Esther Fritz



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

2026 Schedule:

- Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> – Prime Rib
- Jan 17<sup>th</sup> – Smoked Pork Chops or Rib Eye
- Jan 31<sup>st</sup> – BBQ Ribs
- Feb 7<sup>th</sup> – Prime Rib
- Feb 21<sup>st</sup> – Smoked Pork Chops or Rib Eye

- Mar 7<sup>th</sup> – Prime Rib
- Mar 21<sup>st</sup> – Smoked Pork Chops or Rib Eye
- Apr 4<sup>th</sup> – Prime Rib
- Apr 18<sup>th</sup> – Smoked Pork Chops or Rib Eye
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Prime Rib
- May 16<sup>th</sup> – Smoked Pork Chops or Rib Eye
- May 30<sup>th</sup> – BBQ Ribs
- \*Hamburgers also available

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



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## Lakota Lesson

The seven ceremonies of the Lakota to pray and protect the Mother Earth are:

1. The Sweat Lodge for purification
2. The Vision Quest for communing with the Creator for direction and answers
3. The Sundance Ceremony to pray for the well-being of all the People
4. Adoption Ceremony for the making of relatives
5. The Mariage Ceremony for uniting male and female
6. The Naming Ceremony for child naming
7. Healing Ceremony to restore health to the body, mind, and soul

After teaching the Lakota how to pray and use the prayer pipe, the woman promised to return to restore harmony and spirituality to a troubled land. She then transformed into a white buffalo calf.

The return of the White Buffalo is a sign to the native people that prayers are being heard, the sacred pipe is being honored, and the promises of the prophecy are being fulfilled. The White Buffalo signals a time of prosperity and plenty.

Throughout all recorded history, there have been spiritual leaders teaching peace, hope, and balance amongst all life. This is taught by great teachers such as Jesus Christ, Buddha, the Dalai Lama and many Native American leaders. The ceremonies listed are similar to those ceremonies of many religions. My thoughts are that most all of us pray in many ways to very similar gods.

The sacred bundle containing the prayer pipe remains with the Lakota people in a sacred place on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. It is kept by a man known as the Keeper of the White Buffalo Calf Pipe, Arvol Looking Horse.

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## So Much Lost

J.R. Fonger took out a lot of his stock, but in a much-damaged condition.

Mr. Schiltz lost his entire stock of harness goods and all his book accounts.

Mr. Hancock saved practically all of his pool room outfit, and his loss is minimal.

Vandwarka & Faraum saved their desk containing the books of their cream station. About 80 cream cans were on hand at the time and are lost.

This property belonged to other parties so the loss will not fall on our citizens.

J.V. & H.J. Wells saved a large part of the stock on the first floor, but the upper story was filled as was the basement and everything on those floors was burned.

Mr. Fonger places his loss at \$5,500 with \$2800 insurance. Mr. Schiltz lost \$2700 worth of goods and accounts and has \$1000 insurance. Mr. Hancock and Messrs Vandawarka and Faraum carried no insurance. Mr. Wells had \$4000 insurance and \$8000 loss.

Mr. and Mrs. Vanderpohl occupied rooms over the harness shop and escaped in their nightclothes, losing everything. Wm. King and Billy Schultz had rooms over the pool hall and



"After the fire was over."

lost most of their effects. Earl Harland and family resided over the cream station but managed to save some of his household goods but they were badly damaged. This building was owned by Mrs. J.V. Wells, and her loss was \$800 and her insurance was \$400. The buildings occupied by Messrs Schiltz and Hancock were owned by the Bartels brothers and were insured for \$1500.

Very fortunately, there was no wind at the time of the fire, or it might have been much worse. The heat was so intense that the plate glass in the windows across the street were badly cracked and the paint on the buildings was peeled off.

Harland's loss is \$100. A Mr. Winchell had some household goods stored in one of the rooms upstairs over the pool hall and his loss is about \$50. Billy Schultz loses about \$100 in personal effects as also does Wm. King. Elmer Robinson lost about \$25 worth of effects.

The Wade building was valued at \$2200 with insurance of \$700.

The telephone company lost four poles and considerable wires and fixtures and place their loss at something over \$100.

The Citizen's Electric Company suffers a small loss in the way of broken wire and one large pole burned off.

Probably the most heroic fight was made to save the Millard building which stands just north of where the Wade building was. Here twelve men fought the flames with a scant supply of water from a nearby well, and saved the building, though it stood not more than fifteen feet from the Wade building. Messrs Bee and Tighman of Canby, were in this fight and did yeoman service.

The Wells building was of brick veneer and to this fact is attributed to the saving of the structures to the east of it. The fire had nearly burned out the inside before the walls fell, this kept the blaze from crossing over to the east, but it was mighty hot there for a time.

It was a deplorable sight to see those buildings go up in smoke when a small water supply would have saved probably all but one - where the fire originated.

From this disaster will rise a row of bigger and better buildings - buildings made of a material not so easily burned. It has been a staggering blow to our businessmen, but they have the western grit and will not give up. We predict that in a year's time the east side of Coteau Street will be filled with structures equal to any in town.



Come back next month for the rest of the story.

## GATE CITY GENERAL

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## American Legion Auxiliary Northwest Division

### National Junior Meeting



The American Legion Auxiliary National Junior Meeting united young members from across the region to celebrate volunteerism and patriotism while fostering leadership and community engagement. We were joined with Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Colorado, North Dakota, and Wyoming. The event served as a welcoming space for Juniors to develop new skills, form lasting friendships, and strengthen their commitment to service.

At the start of the meeting in Bloomington, MN, organizers explained important

procedures to ensure everyone understood the traditions and etiquette of the American Legion Auxiliary. For example, participants learned that when the gavel sounded once, they should sit, and when it sounded three times, they should stand. During flag ceremonies, members placed their hands over their hearts after one was said aloud and removed them after two to salute the flag respectfully. These protocols helped maintain order and honor the values of the organization.

The meeting featured several activities that emphasized patriotism and American values. Attendees learned to sign the Pledge of Allegiance using American Sign Language, which promoted inclusivity and deeper understanding of national symbols. Presenters explained the meaning of POW (Prisoner of War) and MIA (Missing in Action), highlighting the importance of remembering those who served and sacrificed for the country. The group also heard the inspiring story of Senator Tammy Duckworth, a veteran who was born in Thailand, moved to Hawaii, and joined the U.S. Army after school. She lost both legs in combat, and her story was shared to illustrate resilience, courage, and the significance of service.

Juniors participated in creative projects that encouraged teamwork and national pride. The group received little liberty gnomes—miniature figures that, like small Jesuses, could be hidden, given away, kept, or photographed during travels as a fun way to share the spirit of liberty. Members made festive birthday hats to celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States, crafted USA-themed key chains, and created cards for veterans to express gratitude and encouragement.

Community Service was a core component of the event. Participants packed boxes filled with hats, gloves, ChapSticks, Kleenex, and lotion to support veterans in need.

Attendees learned about the American Legion Auxiliary's Creative Art Festivals, where veterans could showcase their talents through group projects in art, writing, music, and acting. These festivals encouraged veterans to express themselves creatively, build camaraderie, and find healing through the arts.

Throughout the National Junior Meeting, participants forged meaningful relationships, embraced the spirit of community service, and gained a deeper understanding of the values upheld by the American Legion Auxiliary. The event inspired Juniors to remain active in their local units and continue making a positive impact in their communities.





## Helen L. Johnson



Helen L. Johnson, age 81, of Canby, MN, passed away Thursday, November 20, 2025 at the Sanford Canby Medical Center. Memorial services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 1, 2025 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Canby with visitation one hour prior to the service with burial in the Hope Lutheran Cemetery, Minneota, MN. Houseman Funeral Home, Birk Chapel in Canby was entrusted with the arrangements.

Those wishing to honor Helen's memory may donate to Sanford Sylvan Place - Activities, 212 St. Olaf Ave. S., Canby, Minnesota 56220. Cards of sympathy may be sent to: Family of Helen Johnson, 505 Oscar Ave. N., Canby, MN 56220.

Helen L. Johnson was born in Stockton, California on March 7, 1944 to Francis and Dorcas Martin. She grew up in Tracy, California where she graduated from Tracy High School in 1962. She also had three stepbrothers and one stepsister from her mother's first marriage.

Helen met Arlon Johnson, their first date was at the local county fair, and they were married on November 2, 1963, in Tracy. They traveled to Minnesota for a wedding reception and in route they honeymooned in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Together they raised four children, Bob (Arlon's son from his previous marriage), Deb, Francis and David. Helen and Arlon shared nearly 55 years before Arlon's passing on August 13, 2018.

In the fall of 1969, Helen and Arlon moved to a farm south of Canby, Minnesota. Helen's first Minnesota winter was the unforgettable winter of 1969-1970. They began a farming partnership with Arlon's brother, Dennis and Norma Johnson. Together they farmed and operated Johnson Bros. and Stein Trucking. Helen worked for many years at the local grocery store in downtown Canby.

In the mid- 1980's Helen & Arlon returned to California, settling in Brentwood where they started Arlon Johnson Woodworking. Helen worked at Mervyn's Department store while they built their business. They remained in California until 2002, when they sold the business to their son Francis & Connie Johnson and retired to a cabin on Lake Cochrane, near Gary, South Dakota.

Life at the lake brought Helen great joy. She became part of the Ladies of the Lake and spent Wednesday afternoons enjoying lunch and Canasta with friends. She joined the Red Hat Society and played bingo whenever she could. Summers at the lake were filled with family gatherings, July 4th celebrations, and pontoon rides that became cherished traditions.

Helen and Arlon spent many winters in Mission, TX where time with family and friends meant more bingo, cards games and laughter. Helen also enjoyed traveling, with favorite trips to Mexico, Hawaii, Alaska, the Black Hills, Graceland, Colorado and many places across California.

Family was the center of Helen's life. She made it a priority to attend her grandchildren's events and celebrations, and she took pride in cheering them on.

In 2015, Helen and Arlon moved to Canby, Minnesota. Helen was diagnosed with colon cancer in July 2024 and faced treatment with quiet strength and grace, always hoping for more time with the people she loved most. She remained in her home until May 2025 and then moved to an independent living apartment at Sanford Sylvan Place, a place she loved. Helen passed away on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at Sanford Canby Medical Center at the age of 81.

Helen is survived by Deb (Richard) VanDerostyne of Canby, Minnesota; Francis (Connie) Johnson of Brentwood, California; and David Johnson of Fargo, North Dakota and Robin Kack-Johnson of Fargo, North Dakota; grandchildren: Taylor & Jake Ory, Makayla & Luke Bretschneider, Kolby & Loren Johnson, Emma Johnson, Olivia Johnson and Bradley Johnson; great grandson Henry Bretschneider; and a great grandchild expected in April.

She was preceded in death by her parents Francis & Dorcas; husband Arlon; son, Bob and many other family and friends.





Shirley Ann Pederson



Shirley Pederson, age 74, of Gary, SD passed away surrounded by her family after battling cancer on Monday, November 17, 2025, at the Hendricks Community Hospital Nursing Home. Funeral service was held at 10:30am on Saturday, November 22nd at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gary, SD. Visitation was held from 5 to 7pm on Friday, November 21st at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gary with a prayer service at 7pm. Visitation resumed one hour prior to the service at the church with burial in the Grandview Cemetery in Gary, SD. Houseman Funeral Home-Birk Chapel in Canby, MN was entrusted with the arrangements.

Shirley Ann Pederson was born in Scotland, SD on August 31, 1951, to Harvey and Darlene (Nuteson) Nelson. The family moved to Gary, SD where she grew up and graduated from Gary High School in 1969. After high school, she lived with friends and worked in Minneapolis, MN and then Watertown, SD before returning to Gary. She also completed accounting courses at Canby Vocational Technical Institute in Canby, MN.

On January 16, 1971, Shirley was united in marriage to Randel “Randy” Lee Pederson at the United Methodist Church in Gary, SD and they were blessed with two children: Stacy and Scott. Together they raised their children and built a life on the family farm. While the kids were young, she sold Avon and Amway and provided daycare. As they grew older, she began a long and valued career in banking, working first at the bank in Gary and later in Toronto, SD. She worked as the finance officer for the City of Gary for 11 years before retiring in 2021. After living on the farm for more than 50 years, she moved back into Gary in 2022.

She truly enjoyed being part of her hometown. She was one of the founding members of the Gary Givers, a nonprofit organization helping those in times of need. Her involvement brought her treasured friendships, a strong sense of purpose and so much fun. Her favorite pastimes were cheering on her grandchildren in all of their activities, spending time with friends and tending to her flowers and garden. She deeply valued time with family and celebrating holidays together.

Grateful for having shared Shirley’s life are her children: Stacy (Chuck) Neubeck of Marshall, MN and Scott (Tara) Pederson of Gary, SD; her grandchildren: Devin (Megan) Neubeck and Connor Neubeck, Regan Hansen, and Aidan and Cole Pederson; her siblings: Sandy (Dave) Law and Doug (Marilyn) Nelson; brother-in-law Roger (Delores) Pederson; sisters-in-law, Ardis White, Gail Kinzer, Evelyn (Mark) Carter, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Randy; her in-laws, Jens and Verna Pederson and brothers-in-law, Ardell, Jan and Lynn (Jeanie) Pederson and John White.

Kenneth “Ken” L. Hults



“Ken” Hults, age 75, of Glencoe, MN, passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at Glencoe Regional Health in Glencoe.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, November 21, 2025, at the Church of St. Pius X in Glencoe, MN, with interment in St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery in Arlington, MN.

Gathering of Family & Friends was held Thursday, November 20, 2025, from 4:00-8:00 P.M., at the Johnson-McBride Funeral Chapel in Glencoe and continued one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

Memorials preferred to the McLeod County Food Shelf, St. Pius Building Campaign, and the Glencoe Regional Health (GRH) Foundation.

Kenneth Lee Hults born on June 11, 1950, lived a life rooted in generosity, warmth, and the joy of gathering with others. What was most important to him was his family, especially his four grandchildren.

*Madeline, Libby, Liam, & Elliott here* – We would love to tell you about our Grandpa Ken and the incredible human being that he was. Rain, snow, sleet, or shine, our grandpa traveled to the great plains of South Dakota to make it to every Grandparent’s Day, show, coronation, match, competition, and birthday party. Whether it was his beaming face in the audience as he held up his camera or a smiling face in the



morning when he dropped us off at school, he truly was our #1 supporter. He was the biggest example of kindness and love, qualities that he instilled in each of us forever. He never left a conversation or phone call without making sure each of us knew just how loved and special we were. His generosity radiated through his actions as he placed each one of us above himself. In the summers when we visited Glencoe, he spent hours driving us around to each and every park in the city, making sure his car was stocked with each of our favorite treats. That is just the kind of person and grandpa he was. He always had a new garage sale trinket to show us, a story to laugh at, or a fresh pan of baked goods, even though dinner was in an hour. Our grandpa adored traveling, and we were fortunate enough to be a part of his adventures in Missouri, Hawaii, and Izaty's, memories that will last a lifetime. His brilliant energy, love for others, and zest for life were apparent in every room that he walked into. We will never take for granted the impact that he had on each of our lives and will forever cherish our memories with him. Nothing that we could say will ever amount to the incredible grandpa that he was; he will be our hero forever.

Ken is the son of LuVerne "Pete" and Mary Hults. He spent his childhood on the family farm in Gary, SD, along with his two older brothers, Ray and Gene. He was baptized and confirmed at the United Methodist Church. Being the youngest of all the boys and having a stomach that was rather sensitive to the smells of the barnyard, he was named his mother's first assistant in their kitchen, where he developed his love for baking and cooking. He spent his summers with numerous cousins who loved staying on the family farm. He graduated from Gary High School in 1968 and went on to Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD.

Ken began his working career in rural SD. Although not officially on the payroll, he did spend nearly one full day helping his brother and sister-in-law with their garbage route - although that didn't work out as he was unable to get over the stomach "sensitivity" he developed at the farm. He did work in banking as well as sales and installation of computer systems, accounting, and bookkeeping. He spent most of his career working at Lakeside Elementary, a job that brought him so much joy. Two decades of students at Lakeside still remember his morning announcements over the PA system, "GOOD MORNING LAKESIDE..." (think Robin Williams in Good Morning Vietnam!).

While traveling through Glencoe, he had a chance meeting with a woman named Bev who liked to laugh as much as he did. They laughed, and they laughed. And then they laughed some more. Their friendship and love led to their marriage on October 19, 1985. What was most important to Ken was his family. He was proud to be a father of two sons, Skipper and Nathan. As a father, he is remembered as selfless and generous (especially when exceeding his budget at a fireworks stand on the 4th of July). He didn't just attend their many activities, he was active in fundraising, volunteering, and leadership in Boy Scouts, Church organizations, theatre, music, and athletics.

Ken is survived by his wife, Beverly Fritz-Hults; his two sons and daughters-in-law, Wallace "Skipper" & Pamela Fritz and Nathan & Katharine Hults; his grandchildren, Madeline, Libby, & Liam Fritz and Elliott Hults; his brothers and sisters-in-law, Raymond & Betty and Gene & Pam Hults; his nephews and niece, Scott & Penny Hults, Jason & Gina Hults, and Sarah Hults; his brothers- and sisters-in-law, Lee & Peggy Sietsema, Bill & Karen Sietsema, Eileen & Ernie Graves, Don & Anita Buesing, Nancy & Paul Sharkey, Rosemary & Loren Jansen, Carol & Paul Smith, and Janelle Sietsema OSB; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless friends.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents, Mary & LuVerne "Pete" Hults; his mother- and father-in-law, Donald & Ann Sietsema; his brother-in-law, Edward Sietsema; and sister-in-law, Betty Buesing; and his nephews, Steven Hults, Tom Sietsema.

Ken, Dad, Grandpa, Friend - We love you and we miss you more than you know.





Follow the **Gary, SD Community Club** on Facebook for upcoming community events!

**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

*Gary, SD*  
COMMUNITY CLUB

*Christmas on Main Street*

*Parade of Lights*

**Parade**  
**Participants Needed**

*Saturday, December 20th, 2025*  
*06:30 PM*

Contact Tina: 605-303-9190



**Send a Letter to Santa!**

**You can drop off your letter to Santa in the special mailboxes at The Alibi or Gate City General!**



### The Gary Historical Association Museum Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_



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## 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 Assn's Officers

President – Patti Haas

Vice President – Ellen Schulte

Secretary – Gene Hults

Treasurer – Barb Stangeland

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



# The Style

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*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](mailto:garylegionhall@gmail.com)

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](mailto:ghainterstate@gmail.com).