

'Wenebojo and the Cranberries'

Editor's note: In the Ojibwe culture, storytelling is an ancient and important art. It's how tales and teachings about the world are passed from generation to generation, from elder storytellers to eager children. Winter, especially, is a season of storytelling.

Following are two Ojibwe winter stories that have been shared with us, and are being published in the Tribune. To read more of these stories, or to learn more, visit www.dl-online.com/lifestyle/family.

'Wenebojo and the Cranberries'

Wenebojo was walking along one day by the edge of a lake and saw some highbush cranberries lying in the shallow water. He stuck his hand in the water and tried to get them, but he couldn't. He tried over and

over again to get those cranberries.

Finally, he gave up trying to stick his hand in the water and instead, he tried to grab them with his mouth by sticking his head in the water. That didn't work either, so he dove down into the water. The water was so shallow that the little rocks on the bottom hurt his face. He jumped out of the water and lay down on his back on the shore, holding his face.

He opened his eyes, and there were the berries hanging above him! He had only seen their reflection in the water.

But he was so angry that he tore the berries off the tree and didn't eat any, and he walked away.

— As told by Mike Swan, spiritual leader for the Pine Point

community and Native American Cultural Liaison for Detroit Lakes Public Schools

'House for the Tortoise'

Long ago, when the world was young, there were only two tortoises. They didn't have any shells or houses on their backs as we know them today. They were all soft.

One day, the strong animals hunt the weaker animals, and Otter planned on eating Tortoise.

One day, Tortoise wanted to go on land to take a walk, but he couldn't run very fast so he looked around to see if any of the other animals were there. As he looked around, he saw Otter coming, so Tortoise turned around and crawled

under a piece of bark and drew his head, legs, and tail in, and Otter didn't see him.

When Otter was gone, Tortoise went back to the pond where he lived. But he didn't know that Wenebojo was watching him and saw how he had saved himself from Otter.

One morning Wenebojo was out fishing, and he asked Tortoise where there were lots of fish. He said, "If you tell me, I'll give you a sturdy house that you can carry on your back."

As soon as the tortoise heard this, he dived down and looked for fish and found a lot, and then he came back and told Wenebojo where they were. Wenebojo thanked him and got out of his canoe and asked Tortoise to come up on land with him.

There, Wenebojo found a piece of bark and put it on Tortoise's back, and got another piece and put it on his stomach. Then they watched for Otter to come. When they saw him coming, Tortoise went out on the path and pretended that he didn't see Otter coming. When Otter saw Tortoise, he jumped on him so he could eat him, but Tortoise drew his head, legs, and tail into the new shell and was safe.

After Otter went away, Wenebojo told Tortoise that, "From this day forth, every Tortoise shall carry his shell, or house, along wherever he goes." — As told by Mike Swan, spiritual leader for the Pine Point community and Native American Cultural Liaison for Detroit Lakes Public Schools

OBITUARY

Clarence M. (Andy) Anderson



Clarence M. Anderson was born on August 11, 1931 to Clarence T. and Marianne (Preston) Anderson of Audubon, MN. He grew up and attended country schools around Audubon through the 8th grade. As a teenager, he worked on farms, climbed utility poles and hauled milk for the Audubon Creamery (which was his first encounter with a young Bertha Johnson on his route).

He joined the 15th Army Air Force in 1948, where he went through various basic and gunnery training and earned his GED. Due to family illnesses, he had a hardship leave in 1949 to come back to Audubon to run the family farm. He joined the Army National Guard, which was activated in late 1950. By mid-1951, he was sent to Korea as a Forward Observer for the 936th Field Artillery, 8th Army, where during nine months he called in over 200,000 rounds from (18) 155mm Howitzer "Big Guns." He sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge on his return home on Memorial Day, 1952, where the soldiers were met by movie stars. He remained a member of the National Guard until 1956.

In August of 1952, Clarence began driving truck for Daggett Truck Line where he picked up the nickname Andy. He would drive semi-tractor trailer trucks for the next 64 years with brief stints off the road to run a Deep Rock gas station, work as a mechanic for Gabor Trucking or set up his own shop overhauling diesel engines. He always fell back on being an owner-operator truck driver. His last truck driving job was with the Audubon-Waubun Elevator Association, retiring 64 years to the day after he first climbed into a Daggett Truck Line truck #5 and hooked on to trailer #4.

He married Bertha Johnson on June 6, 1954. Over the next ten years, they had four children. They lived in Frazee until 1964, and then in Detroit Lakes until moving to West Fargo in 2017.

He and Bertha are charter members of Grace Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes and Associate members of Holy Lutheran Church in Fargo. Both were lifelong members and very active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars at Post, District, and State levels. Andy was Post 1676 Commander and also 9th District Commander.

Clarence M (Andy) Anderson died peacefully at 8:30 a.m. on December 25, 2019. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence T. and Marianne P. Anderson of Frazee, and two step-grandsons Cy and Bo Pinter. He leaves his wife Bertha (Johnson) of 65-1/2 years of Fargo; four children: Dennis (Melinda) Anderson of Pascoag, RI; Mark (Jennifer) Anderson of Fargo, Debra Anderson of Maple Grove, MN, and Kathy (Tom) Lornis of Fargo; 10 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and two brothers: William (Gerry) Anderson of Detroit Lakes and Patrick (Bennie) Anderson of Frazee.

Funeral services will be held at 11am on Tuesday, December 31 at Grace Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN. Visitation will be held 5-7pm on Monday, December 30 followed with a prayer service at 7pm at Grace Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes. Arrangements entrusted to David-Donohew Funeral Home, Detroit Lakes.

More obituaries can be found on page A9.

BRIEF

Ogema farm fire could have been much worse

Technology can be a wonderful thing.

Thanks to an alarm app that warned him when his corn dryer was overheating, an Ogema farmer was able to put out a corn fire Christmas Eve and prevent much more serious problems, said Ogema Fire Chief Joe McArthur.

Ogema firefighters spent about an hour at the site of the fire, which was reported at 12:40 p.m. Dec. 26 on the 18000 block of 360th Street, Ogema.

"A grain dryer started overheating the corn," McArthur said. "The farmer got an app notification and got a fire extinguisher on it right away."

The damage was confined to the grain drying equipment and some burnt corn, but it could have been much worse, had that burning corn been augered from the drier into the grain bin, he said. The whole bin could have gone up in flames: Dried corn burns well and is used as fuel in corn-burning stoves, furnaces and fireplaces.

"Luckily he had that technology," McArthur said.

News staff report

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