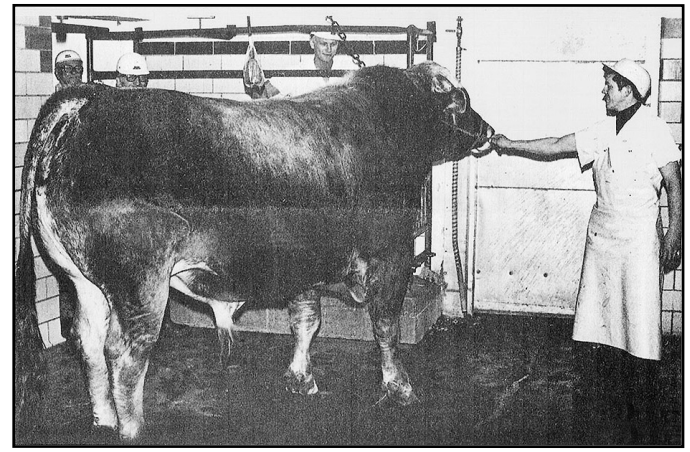


Springtime on the farm

Farm, ranch folk on high alert during calving season ritual

From My
VIEW POINT

by *Louis Hoglund,*
Managing Editor



Butchers Dave, Ted handled a big 'un at the old locker plant in Pelican a few decades ago

It's calving season, and the farmers and ranchers in the Pelican Rapids area ag country are restless...sleepless. Occasionally, farm folk stop at the local newspaper office, between hauling feed; standing guard over the flocks and herds; and making hefty deposits at the local banks. **Orland Ohe**, for example. Occasionally, we engage in good-natured ribbing and joking with our farm friends. "So," I inquire, "what are the farmers whining about these days?...Weather?...Feed costs?...Commodity prices?...Ground moisture levels?...Soil pH balance?...Mechanical failures?...Price of tea in China?..." "Well," said Orland, "I only lost \$2,000 today." One of his herd toppled over on an incline. Unable to get back on its feet, it died in the field—probably within a half hour, speculated Orland. As a recovering city boy, I thought big cows were just

able to get up and down and romp around on their own free will—like most normal creatures that rank higher on the evolutionary scale. Not the case. Especially when they're heavy-loaded with a calf. Had Orland spotted the downed heifer in enough time, he would have rumbled over with the skid steer and tipped her back on her feet. So I ask: 100 years ago, before the marvelous invention of the Bobcat mini-tractor—what did farmers do in such a situation? For starters, in the old days, there were typically a dozen kids on the farm. At least half of them, able to pull their own weight. With a rope and a dozen arms, the gang could tug the critter back to its feet.

With calving season here for Pelican area farm and livestock folk, we pulled this photo from the Pelican Rapids Press files. Absent from the photo was the dateline so we're not exactly sure when it was published. Probably in the 1970s. "The largest 'critter' ever seen at Dave and Ted's lockers in Pelican Rapids was brought in by Lawrence Mavis, Fergus Falls. The three-and-a-half year old Brown Swiss-Simmental Bull tipped the scales at 2,740 pounds and dressed out at over 1,800 pounds. It took about an hour of gentle prodding to coax the bull from a trailer into the plant," stated the caption under the photo. **Dave Stetz** and **Ted Solien** operated the locker plant from about 1972 to 1991, in the big brick building across from the former creamery in Pelican. The locker plant is currently being renovated by the Gummeringers. Carrying on the family butcher tradition is **Jason Stetz, at Heart O' Lakes Quality Meats**, in the Pelican Rapids industrial park. Dave Stetz was Jason's father, and he passed away about four years ago. Ted Solien, who died in 2010, was Jason's uncle.

Public safety is not a partisan issue

By *Rep. Jordan Rasmusson*
Minnesota State House
Republican-Fergus Falls

The Legislature is working on proposals to address public safety in the wake of last summer's riots in the Twin Cities and ahead of the upcoming trial for Derek Chauvin. This issue is about protecting Minnesotans and providing our law enforcement agencies with the resources to do so. Citizens deserve for politics to be set aside on this one, so the Legislature can move forward on a plan before the Chauvin trial takes place. I remain committed to ensuring law enforcement has the resources needed to keep Minnesotans safe and prevent a repeat of last summer's events. From my conversations with local law enforcement, there is a reasonable expectation that local officers will be called on as reinforcements if needed. If called, our local law enforcement

will respond, and they deserve to be compensated for their services. Without this funding, the funding burden could fall on local law enforcement budgets and local taxpayers. Now it is time for Democrats to decide if they want to pursue a bipartisan approach or continue to allow "defund the police" activists to continue hamstringing these efforts. Twice in one week, Democrats tried and failed to get \$35 million in public safety emergency funding through the House floor. This SAFE Account bill (HF445) most recently failed on a 62-72 vote, the first time in years that a priority bill for the majority and/or the governor has failed on the House floor. The majority continues to insist on controversial policy provisions that caused the bill to lose support of Minnesota's top three law enforcement groups and blocked Republican attempts to offer a meaningful compro-

mise that could have earned significant bipartisan support. Various media outlets have shed light on this issue. The Star Tribune's editorial board, which is not known for supporting Republican initiatives, recently penned a piece entitled "State House Republicans have the right idea on police security funding." The proposal supported by myself and my Republican colleagues would gain wide, bipartisan support. Gov. Tim Walz even said on WCCO radio this week he would sign the House Republican SAFE Account proposal if it reached his desk. Earlier in that same interview, he described it as a "workable solution." It is time to put aside petty politics and move forward with a proposal that will support our local law enforcement as they prepare to manage a challenging public safety situation. We should continue to work on fostering trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Bad actors in law enforcement should face accountability. Funding to provide security to allow this criminal justice process to proceed is the first step.

Law enforcement support sought by area legislator

Letter to THE EDITOR

Over-loaded farm trucks can cause road hazards

I have been meaning to write since harvest season... I was invited to a family cabin on Lake Lida the Sunday of Labor Day weekend for supper. I live in West Fargo so drove I-94 until exit 180. On 180 before getting to Pelican Rapids I met a truck hauling sugar beets on this two-lane road headed toward I-94. As he passed by me, sugar beets came out from his evidently over-filled truck. It bounced on my hood and dented it. While sliding off it also scratched the paint. Sad for me, but he kept going probably unaware of the damage he caused. Now I have visited a body shop to repair the hood of my 2018 Nissan SUV. I have a bill for \$760. If I put in an insurance claim, my insurance premium will increase. I suppose I will end up paying the \$760 to avoid the increase. Shouldn't these truckers be more responsible? I have heard stories similar to mine; as well as other problems of them leaving clumps of dirt on the roads. Not my fault, but my expense and inconvenience!

Joyce Clark

Pelican Senior Citizen club formed in 1971

100 years ago, March 3, 1921

- **Caucus Notice**
The village caucus will be held Friday night in the Orpheum Theatre at 8 o'clock. The caucus will nominate one president of the village council, one trustee, one recorder, one treasurer, one assessor and two constables.
- **Farm Labor**
Many farmers are now beginning to look up their spring and summer help and are wondering what the wages are going to be. A number of the employment agencies have notified the Farm Bureau office that they have all kinds of farm help ready to send out, running at \$30.00 per month for general man, \$35.00 for stock man, and \$50.00 for married couples. Anyone in need of help can leave their want with the Farm Bureau office, and we will see that you are furnished with help.

75 years ago, March 7, 1946

- **Post-War Foreign Aid (E.L. Peterson, editorial)**
President Truman and other government officials have urged everyone to tighten their belts, eat and spend less in order to save food for the starving people in other countries. That's a laudable motive, and many are glad to do what they can. But we don't hear any of the Washington dignitaries say anything about drinking less. Billions of dollars are wasted every year in drinking liquor, which might profitably be used to feed and clothe the starving. *Authors note: E.L. Peterson was known for his strong prohibition views.*
- **Gerald Evenson Weds Maxine Christopherson**
Last Wednesday afternoon, it is Feb. 27, at 2:30 occurred the marriage of Miss Maxine Christopherson, daughter of Mrs. Frances Christopherson of the village, to Pfc. Gerald Evenson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Evenson who live north of town. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. E.O. Stenson at the parsonage.

The groom is stationed at Camp Plauchee, New Orleans, La., and has re-enlisted for another year.

50 years ago, March 4, 1971

- **Senior Citizens Meet**
Over 50 members and guests were present Monday at the weekly meeting of the newly organized Senior Citizens. Membership has passed 70. Potluck noon meal was enjoyed. A short business meeting was conducted by Mrs. J.H. Grob. Hank Grob, Charlie Bengtson, and Mrs. Bengtson were ready to provide some toe-tapping music after the meeting was adjourned.
- **Brunt of Blizzard Misses Pelican**
Pelican Rapids was apparently on the fringe of blizzard that passed through the state late Friday and early Saturday, disrupting traffic in the area. Officially, the storm brought only an inch of new snow, but winds of up to 45 mph whipped the snow into drifts of five to six feet in some places. Visibility was reduced to zero during the storm.

- **Justice Court...**
The following appeared in local justice court recently: Charge by Conservation Officer Ray Jensen were Elmer J. Knutson, West Fargo, and Morris Halverson, Minneapolis, angling with more than a single line, and the two were fined \$19 each; the matter was transferred to Fergus Falls municipal court.

25 years ago, February 28, 1996

- **Precinct Caucuses are First Step in Choosing Party Candidates**
Precinct caucuses, the meetings in which major political parties identify issues and choose candidates, open at 7 PM next Tuesday, March 5. The caucuses are held in every elec-

Looking BACK

by *Paul Gubrud,*
Columnist



tion year and are open to the public. At the caucuses, those in attendance elect delegates who will support specific candidates at party conventions held later this summer. Some of the delegates may go to the national party convention this summer and help decide their party's presidential candidate. The Democratic Farmer-Labor caucus will be held in the Pelican Rapids High School cafeteria. The local caucus for the Republican Party will be held at the auditorium of Lake Region Electric Cooperative.

- **Teacher Shares Russian Culture with Viking Elementary Fourth-graders**
Fourth-graders wearing baseball caps in the classroom seemed a little strange to Irena Davletove, who teaches English at a public school in Tver, a city of about 500,000 in Russia. Although she learned students at Viking Elementary School were celebrating "Winter Fun Days" and it was "dress-up day," the concept was still foreign to her. "We don't have special days in Russia," she explained during a presentation to students last Tuesday. Davletove told the students their classrooms in Pelican Rapids are more decorated and have more computer technology than hers. "The kids ask the same questions though," she said.
- **Move to Year-round Further Processing Planned at WCT**
The "evolution" into full-time, year-round production of branded products is being completed this year at West Central Turkeys, Inc. in Pelican Rapids. The move means two things: no more seasonal lay-offs for employees; and no more "whole bird" processing, a mainstay of the plant since it opened in the mid-50s. "We're changing our focus this year," says Plant Manager G.L. Tucker, "continuing our evolution to year-round production."

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