

**From My
 VIEW POINT**

by Louis Hoglund,
 Managing Editor



**Longest known
 subscriber to Pelican
 Press dies at age 103**

**They just don't make newspaper
 readers like Burnetta Frazee**

Given the much publicized, dismal state of the newspaper biz, there's a running joke that local newspapers decline with each obituary.

Some of our most faithful readers are aging folks who are dedicated newspaper consumers. Of course, they don't live forever—and when they're gone, so is one subscription. Morbid as it sounds, it is true for some newspapers in elderly market areas.

Now, we're happy to report that the Press circulation is staying far ahead of the obituary count.

Still, we're always sad to lose friends and longtime readers—for reasons beyond just circulation, subscriptions and revenue. We also lose a piece of local history.

Such is the case with Burnetta (Nelson) Frazee, who just died at age 103. (See obituary this week's edition.)

We reached the conclusion that she was the longest known subscriber to the Pelican Rapids Press—dating back to 1935. We also suspect she was the oldest known reader of the Press, since she no doubt paged through the paper at home, during her youth and teen years of the 1920s

and early 1930s—before she became a near eight decade subscriber.

Burnetta was a delight to hear from at the office. Though she lived most of her adult life up in the Park Rapids area, she kept a close eye on the Pelican area—and she would call us now and then, with a historic tidbit, or correction on some historic detail.

We were extremely humbled during the early weeks of the 2020 pandemic, when Burnetta sent us a check for \$100. She was concerned that the Pelican newspaper would cease publication under the economic pressure of the pandemic—and she wanted to send financial support.

We insisted that she reconsider the generous offer. We didn't feel right about accepting the money. But she was persistent. We finally reached a compromise: I guaranteed Burnetta a "lifetime" subscription to the Press.

All of our staff enjoyed their contacts with Burnetta over the years. Last time I talked with her, she was mentally sharp, clever and witty as ever.

So, our condolences to the extended Frazee family. Also a suggestion: We invite one of the clan to carry on Burnetta's tradition—with a subscription to her hometown newspaper! In fact, Burnetta had a lifetime subscription—so we'd be happy to negotiate an extension!

Following is a handwritten note, dated Feb. 9, 2020, which Burnetta penned to our office:

"Dear Pelican Rapids Press staff,

Congratulations to you all upon your recent awards at the Minnesota Newspaper Association Convention.

I have heard many comments and compliments as how blessed our community is to have our Pelican Press as our hometown newspaper.

The very best to you all, now and evermore ..."

Burnetta Frazee

**Minn. legislature formally
 recognizes World War II Army
 nurse Marcy Korda, and the
 Pelican resident's 100th birthday**



The 100th birthday of one of Pelican Rapids longtime citizens became part of the official record with the Minnesota Legislature, with a formal House resolution.

Marcy Korda, a World War II U.S. Army nurse veteran, celebrated her 100th birthday in February. Her life, including her war experiences and her long association with Pelican Rapids, were profiled in the Pelican Rapids Press.

The article caught the attention of Minnesota State House Representative Jordan Rasmusson, a freshman Republican legislator from Fergus Falls.

Rasmusson prepared a House resolution, congratulating Korda on her 100th birthday—which was passed on April 12.

Marcy met her future husband, Dr. Henry Korda, while they were both serving in a field medical unit in North Africa and Italy, 1944-45. The couple married, and moved to Pelican Rapids—where Dr. Korda served as the town physician for nearly 40 years.

Marcy remains active in Pelican Rapids, including the Pelican VFW, and will likely be in the audience for the annual Memorial Day program, 10 a.m. May 31, at the Pelican Rapids High School auditorium.

An image of the State House proclamation is pictured here; as well as a photo of Marcy during World War II, and a more recent image.

Editor's note: We might add that **Marcy Korda** will be among the longest living subscribers to the Pelican Rapids Press, dating back to about 1946. In the accompanying column, we pay tribute to the late **Burnetta Frazee**—who had been a subscriber since 1935, and probably a Press reader back into the 1920s.

**Louis Hoglund,
 managing editor**



**Mill Pond drowning was
 Pelican tragedy 100 years ago
 Basketball legend Rex Haugen retired in 1996**

Looking BACK

by Paul Gubrud,
 Columnist



100 years ago, May 26, 1921

• Boy Drowns – High School Freshman Loses Life While Bathing

A very sad accident occurred here Saturday afternoon when Morris Gilberts lost his life in the mill pond while in bathing. The day was hot and he in company with some other boys went to the mill pond to go in bathing. The other boys decided not to go in and tried to persuade Morris to stay out as he was very warm at the time, but he jumped in near the mill-race and was in only a short time when he went under. He called for help once, and a boy ran for help but it was about fifteen minutes before the body was removed from the water. A physician was there as soon as the boy was taken out and he worked over him for a long time but all efforts to revive him proved futile.

• Farm House Burns

The home of Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Elsworth of Dunn Township was completely destroyed by fire Sunday night at about six o'clock. Mrs. Elsworth was sleeping upstairs and was awakened by the fire, and Mr. Elsworth was not at the house at the time. Some of the neighbors came to help them, but only a few of the household goods were saved. This is a hard blow on Mr. and Mrs. Elsworth and they have the sympathy of their friends in their misfortune.

75 years ago, May 30, 1946

• Junior Senior Banquet Held Saturday

The Seniors and Juniors of the Pelican Rapids High School held their spring banquet in the high school gymnasium Saturday evening, May 25.

The colorful Gay Nineties were used as a theme for the banquet. The ceiling of the gymnasium was covered by dark blue crêpe paper sprinkled with bright luminous stars and the walls were hung with bright streamers. On one wall of the gymnasium, a little village right out of the Gay

Nineties was built. The dinner served was strictly Gay Nineties, the entrée was fried chicken.

• Please Return Uniforms

The American Legion Junior Baseball League is active again this year after a few years of inactivity, and they are experiencing considerable difficulty in rounding up the old uniforms for the boys. It seems that the boys did not all turn them in when the team disbanded a few years ago. Anyone having one of these uniforms should turn it in now to Ben Freng, please.

50 years ago, May 27, 1971

• Investigating School Burglary

Otter Tail County sheriff deputies and other local police are investigating a burglary at the high school here in which tools were taken from the Industrial Arts department.

According to Police Chief Merlin Rieman, the burglary took place last Tuesday night, but was not revealed immediately because of the investigation.

There was no forced entry of the building, police said, which leads them to believe that the persons or persons involved entered the building during the evening and remained inside after the school was locked. A number of activities were scheduled for that evening, including the annual school election and a meeting of the Board of Education.

The burglars were familiar with the building, police believe, removing a quantity of tools and equipment from the Industrial Arts area. Instructor Bob King estimated that the replacement value of the missing tools would be about \$1000.

25 years ago, May 22, 1996

• Strong Winds Toss Boats, Topple Trees in Pel-

ican Lake Area

A line of thunderstorms skirted much of Pelican Rapids Friday evening, but tossed some boats around and toppled trees in the area north of town.

Hardest hit was the Pelican Lake area, where damage to Fair Hills Resort on the lake's northeast end was estimated at up to a quarter million dollars.

• City to Seek Bids for New Water Tower

Bids are being solicited by the city for construction of a new 500,000 gallon elevated water storage tank.

Under a plan approved by the City Council at a meeting last week, bids will be opened June 10, with an anticipated completion date of July 15 next year.

Consulting engineer Gary Nansen estimates the cost of the tower at \$657,000. A second project linking the new storage tank into the present system, will cost an estimated \$20,000.

• Rex Retires, Ending 31 Years on the Viking Basketball Court

It's the end of an era in Pelican Rapids basketball, as Rex Haugen stepped down after 31 years as head boys' basketball coach.

Haugen, who resigned from his teaching position last year, compiled a 430 – 266 record at Pelican Rapids. Counting a year as a freshman coach at the University of North Dakota and two years in Page, ND, his overall record is 467 – 289.

Among the honors his teams have achieved over the years are 15 Heart O' Lakes Conference championships, eight District 23 Subsection titles, three Region Section 6A titles and one State Championship in 1983-1984.

"It was truly a gut-wrenching decision to let it go," said Haugen about his decision to retire from coaching. "I could always find a reason to keep going."

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