

## Pelican Rapids Press readers saluted, as newspaper observes 125th year throughout 2022

Late Vivian Hagen, age 101, believed to be one of longest-known Press readers

We occasionally call attention to longtime, loyal readers of the Pelican Rapids Press.

And with 2022 being the **125th anniversary of publication of the Press**, these dedicated newspaper readers are especially appreciated.

One of our oldest readers was **Vivian Hagen** who turned 101 years young on Aug. 22, 2021. Sadly, we learned of her passing last week.

Another local reader and rural Pelican native Rod Hagen, called our attention to Vivian last year. Vivian was Rod's Godmother.

A 1940 graduate of Pelican Rapids High School, Vivian lived in California, most of her adult life, but she has kept in touch with her hometown through the Press. (**Vivian's obituary appears in this week's edition of the Press.**)

Though her hearing had deteriorated, her eyesight was good almost up to the end. "She read the Press every week," reported **Rod Hagen**. "She enjoyed doing word puzzles. Wheel of Fortune on TV was her favorite program."

At age 101, she was perhaps one of the longest known readers and subscribers to the Press.

Vivian married Rod's Uncle Carl Hagen in June of 1942. After World War II, Carl returned from New Guinea. They later moved to Alameda, California. They were married 56 years. Her son Jim took care of her since Carl passed in 1998.

Published here, a photo of Vivian last year—reading her Press.

Earlier in 2021, we were sad to report the death of **Bernetta (Nelson) Frazee** at age 103, who we believed to be the longest known subscriber to the Press at the time—dating back to 1935.

With Bernetta's passing, we had given Vivian Hagen the distinction of the "longest known" Press reader—presuming that she probably read the paper back to the early 1930s, when she was a student in the Pelican schools.

Another centenarian, **Marcy Korda**, a 101-year-old resident of Pelican Rapids, may now be among our longest-known Press readers. She is a World War II Army nurse veteran, who we profiled in the Press a number of times.

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

Some of our most faithful readers are aging folks. Of course, they don't live forever—and when they're gone, so

### From My VIEW POINT

by *Louis Hoglund,*  
*Managing Editor*



is one subscription.

We're pleased to report that the Press circulation is staying far ahead of the obituary count. In fact, we've enjoyed increased readership around the many nearby lakes—Pelican, Lizzie, Lida, Franklin, Crystal, Prairie, Star and others. Even though many of these permanent and seasonal lake home dwellers are not "locals," many enjoy reading the local news, and have adopted the Pelican area as their "second home town."

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

Such was the case with Burnetta (Nelson) Frazee, who died February 2021.

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. Every time I talked with her, she was mentally sharp, clever and witty.

We've published comments on Burnetta Frazee in the past, but we would like to again include one of her last handwritten notes, 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**



The late Vivian Hagen, who passed away last week at age 101, was believed to be one the longest known readers of the Pelican Rapids Press.

### Send a photo of family, friends ...reading their Pelican Press!

If you have a parent, grandparent or friend—our yourself!—who are Press readers, send a photo reading the newspaper:

[news@pelicanrapidspress.com](mailto:news@pelicanrapidspress.com)

Feel free to include a few sentences of background.

### Letters to THE EDITOR

## Most white people identify as 'not racist' ...But are they 'anti-racist?'

I listened to a podcast today from The Daily Show with Trevor Noah and his guest India Arie. They were discussing the Joe Rogan-Spotify controversy. It got me thinking about my old ex-best-friend Rae. I met her in graduate school about 25 years ago and she was my first Black friend. I haven't seen her in fifteen or more years, but she crosses my mind every once in a while, and lately a little more often.

I grew up in a small white town. I never considered myself racist. I would smugly look down on people who I suspected were racists and maybe would point it out, or not.

So, when I, an educated woman, was called out on saying racist things I became defensive. I never realized how being brought up in an isolated rural area shaped my ideas on race under my own radar. Rae was patient and kind, usually, and explained how the phrases I used and questions I asked were offensive. Because she cared about me and knew that at my core, I was not a racist person, she continued to be my friend. She educated me when it was not her job. She could have labeled me a racist and walked on, but did not. For that I am grateful.

When I remember some of these conversations, I am embarrassed. Over the years I have grown and learned. I still continue to make mistakes, hopefully fewer. I am also thankful that someone took the time to help me become a better person. Now if I say something that's racist, I try not to get defensive, I would rather know than continue to make the mistake.

If a white person SAYS something racist it doesn't have to mean that they ARE a racist. And other times it does. Trevor Noah and India Arie talked about just that. Listen to that podcast episode to hear their ideas on Joe Rogan. It may surprise you.

One of the ways that I have grown is knowing that it isn't Black people or other People of Color's job to educate anyone on racism. I consider it a gift that I had a mentor.

White people need to educate themselves and each other. It also isn't enough to be "not racist." White people have to be "anti-racist." One is passive the other is actively working for change, in yourself and your community.

If you are resistant to this article, ask yourself why. Are you a racist? Probably not, but are you an anti-racist? Are you actively working to end racism?

There are so many books and podcasts on this topic that make it easy to self-educate. Georgia has named February 23 Ahmaud Arbery day to memorialize his life and stand against the lynching of Black men.

How will you respond on that day? As an educator? As an anti-racist?

**Barbara Honer**



## A few reasons you should vote

The headlines: "Trump's commode is plugged! Congress is investigating!"

Mr. Trump was supposedly flushing notes down the commode. That made the headlines!

Now: How about just a few issues that are important?

- We have the health cost issues where ours are almost three times as high as else in the world.
- We have the issue of Dreamers!

Several million people were brought into this country illegally as small children. They have been educated in this country. They have served in the military in some cases. And usually are hard working people.

They have no path to citizenship because our highly educated elected officials aren't smart enough to figure it out. They've kicked the issue down the road for over twenty years!

- We have another border issue.

The news media makes a lot of noise about political asylum. Many of these people don't qualify because they came from South American countries where they had originally claimed asylum from their home countries. When the benefits ran out there, the U.S. became the next target for free benefits.

These people are invading our country illegally and Congress is playing politics. They are also making mockery of the people that have gone through the channels to become U.S. citizens.

Why do WE the people allow Congress to do NOTHING!

• Jan. 6... No matter who puts the political spin on things, the January 6 was NOT okay! They invaded MY home! They killed people. They destroyed property and tried to overthrow our Government! And nothing was done to stop them.

• In the name of "Equal rights" we have "Minority" groups trying to bully their way into special treatment and privileges because they want to be above the laws of the land in a country where "supposedly" the majority rules.

• We have elected officials campaigning for the next election before they are sworn in from the last election! When do they get something done?

We also have many other important issues in this country—Yet Congress and the news media seem focused on the Ex-presidents' commode.

Want to change this?

Do your homework—and VOTE!!!

**David Damlo,**  
**Star Lake**

## Viking boys basketball team won third conference title in four years in 1972

100 years ago, February 23, 1922

### • Residence Burn

Last week, Thursday, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Harrison of Dunn Township had the misfortune to lose their farm home and all its contents by fire.

Albert Erickson, who is a neighbor of the Harrison's, was going to town that day, and while on the road, one of his horses dropped dead. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison went to help him and afterward went home with him for lunch, and while they were away, the house caught fire and burned. No one being there at the time, it is not known how the fire originated, and none of the contents were saved.

It is a disaster to be burned out of house and home at any time, but it is especially unfortunate at this time of the year. They have the profound sympathy of all in their distress.

### • Railroads, Buses, and Trucks (E. L. Peterson editorial)

The railroads have been complaining that bus and truck lines have been taking away the business that rightfully be-

longs to them, and there is no doubt but what that is true. The better the country roads become, the more inducement there will be for individuals to go into the transportation business unless conditions are changed. It is now up to the railroads to modify their methods of transportation to conform to the present demand. Of course, the trunk lines cannot be discontinued, but all the short lines could be run under a different system. Take the Pelican line for instance, for the passenger and express business an electric or gasoline driven car or cars could be used, which could be run at considerable less expense and give better service.

75 years ago, February 20, 1947

### • Our Final Appeal

Tuberculosis is caused by a germ, the tubercle bacillus, which is spread from person to person. It is not inherited. If it seems to run in families, it is because one member of

## Looking BACK

by *Paul Gubrud,*  
*Columnist*



the family catches it from another. Christmas Seals carry on a continuous campaign to prevent the spread of tuberculosis. The chief diagnostic weapon in detecting tuberculosis is the X-ray, discovered 51 years ago by Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen. Christmas Seal funds have purchased 190 X-ray units in the United States now being used in the search for unknown cases, four of these units in Minnesota.

The tuberculosis cause does not ask much from anyone, but it needs something from everyone. Residents who have not as yet contributed or returned their envelopes are urged to do so this week. Miss Foley says she would like to get her complete report this month, and it would be a real satisfaction to be able to report 100%.

LOOKING BACK COLUMN

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