

From My VIEW POINT

by Louis Hohlund,
Managing Editor



City, library issues seem rather inconsequential—given everything else we ought to be dealing with

A wise and civic minded former mayor, Wayne Runnigen, has often stated that the Pelican Rapids Public Library falls under the category of “economic development.”

He is absolutely correct.

There are communities that would die for a beautiful facility like the Pelican library. It has been a consistent draw to town—indirectly supporting business and commerce for more than three decades.

Sure, the library is a source of enlightenment, education, learning and community. It is also a hometown Pelican connection to the Somali New American, the English-language-learning Hispanic, the wide-eyed child yearning for knowledge, and the lakes area seasonal resident who comes into town to check out books—and check out local businesses.

Why, on earth, I need to ask, is the library such a constant source of bickering, administrative squabble and municipal headache?

We’ve scratched the surface of these issues in the Press news pages for a few years. We have a story in this edition also, touching on the general conflict over whether or not library employees are city employees...the balance of governing control between the city council and the library board...and the various nuanced issues that are somehow of such gravity that a state of Minnesota media-tor had to road trip up to Pelican from St. Paul to referee the matter. This is the second state agency that has been dragged into what is a very local bit of administrative discontent. Countless minutes have been expended by city and library officials and volunteer council and library board members.

What’s interesting—I’ve hardly heard a word from newspaper readers.

Why?

Because they don’t care.

Generally speaking, the readers and lakes area residents aren’t really concerned about governing turfdom, cost of living pay increases, overtime hours, accumulated comp time or personality conflicts.

Library patrons, and the business community, appreciate the library. They especially appreciate it when it is open.

Truth be told, they’d appreciate it being open more often than it is.

Let’s be honest here. The main street business, or Pelican area household, has had enough trouble getting through the pandemic. It’s really difficult to sympathize with what are basically nit-picky issues when we have highway projects to deal with, swimming pools to build, recreational trails to pave, kids to educate during a pandemic, mouths to feed, bills to pay, housing to procure, dams to remove, riverfronts to develop, and... soon enough, snow to shovel.

There’s a lot of “right stuff” happening in Pelican.

Still, we often hear things like “...why can’t Pelican have nice things like this or that thing ... just like this or that town down the road...?”

Well, for starters, communities that “work” try very hard not to burn up a lot of time, resources, energy and human capital on petty stuff.

There were a total of nine people gathered at city hall for a mediation session Oct. 1. Nine people that probably had better, more productive things to do. Not to mention all the other ill-spent time in recent years.

We will wait for an opinion from the Bureau of Mediation Services, the Office of Management and Budget; and any other bureaucratic mechanism that may lumber in with a pocketful of state statutes.

Then—let’s get over it and just move on.

Why are some towns more successful than others?

Well, for starters, communities that “work” try very hard not to burn up a lot of resources, energy and human capital on petty stuff.

Pelican treatment of broken foot 70 years ago might raise physician eyebrows today—but it worked!

In 1950 my dad fell and cracked a bone in his chest and came and had Dr. Henry Korda treat it.

I was going to start harvest combining, with my uncle driving the tractor on the combine. Combine was making a noise so I checked it and went to jump down and slipped and fell and got run over on my right foot.

I had 11 breaks in the right foot. Seeing Dr. Korda, he said I had

to wait until the swelling went down. One week later he came and told me I had two choices. One was go to Fargo and have my foot amputated and the other was that he would experiment with it, my choice.

He gets an electric drill and bit and drills cross holes in the 4 little toes and put pins in the holes and fastens rubber bands to the pins. Makes a cast to cover the foot but not the toes. Cast has a

rod across the front where he pulls the rubber bands tight. Seven weeks with special cast; two weeks with walking cast and Dr. Korda gave me a new foot. I am now 91 and still using it.

A doctor to be remembered.

I suppose Marcy was my nurse at the time. So many thanks to Marcy and Dr. Henry Korda.

Lyle Barringer,
Pelican Rapids

From the pen of the mayor...

Hunting an important cultural aspect of Minnesota

By Brent Frazier, mayor
City of Pelican Rapids

“Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to affirm that hunting and fishing and the taking of game and fish are a valued part of our heritage that shall be forever preserved for the people and shall be managed by law and regulation for the public good?”

This was the text of the measure that was put on the Minnesota election ballot in 1998 which was also referred to as “Minnesota Amendment 3.” The measure passed with 77.24% of voting YES and 22.76%, NO.

By such a decisive margin of victory, Minnesota became only the 3rd state in the country to possess a right to hunt and fish. Since then Utah became the 23rd state in the 2020 election.

Hunting and fishing have always been a major part of our country’s history, as they also are here in Minnesota. Our forefathers, and their forefathers, relied on the legal harvesting of wild game and fish to be a major portion of their families food supply.

Through the course of time, we witness much less dependency on wild game to feed our families.

With the rush-rush society in which we now live, it is fortunately (or less fortunately) easier to grab a quick burger ‘to-go’ than to hop in the boat to catch some fish or trek to the duck blind or deer stand to gather a meal for the dinner table.

Along with the decline of people ‘wetting a line’ or ‘taking a shot at a critter’ is the loss of the bonding between friends and family members.

Gone are the memories that could have been for many people. The memories of; digging your own angleworms, catching a

lunker size Walleye, shooting your first Mallard, the smell of gunpowder, spotting that trophy buck, eating a bologna sandwich in your duck blind under the rays of a warm autumn sun or the companionship of a first hunt with your grandchild.

It should be noted that money generated from license fees and excise taxes on guns, ammunition and angling equipment provide about 60% of the funding for state wildlife agencies, which manage most U.S. wildlife.

The 2021 Minnesota hunting season recently started with the Waterfowl opener on September 25.

The waterfowl that fly across our area use the Mississippi Flyway. This is the flight pattern from Canada to the

Gulf of Mexico which has dramatically changed from the 1960-70s since many of us baby-boomers sat in our first duck blinds. This flight pattern has shifted west as the waterfowl now travel the reservoirs and lush grain fields of the Dakotas.

Also adding to the mix is the absence of the many young hunters that were present in years gone by. With fewer hunters, the waterfowl are more apt to stay in places of calm instead of resorting to the skies and be susceptible the deadly range of a shotgun.

Being a good hunter is much more than being a sharp marksman and harvesting wild game.

A good hunter; knows the rules & regulations, know the parts of the firearm, knows the shooting fundamentals, knows how to identify wild game species, knows hunter responsibility &

ethics, knows about resource management, knows about personal preparedness & survival, knows the proper wild game care after the game is harvested and knows all about firearms safety in detail.

Yes, all of the previous ‘knows’ are important, but most importance is Firearms Safety.

The first Minnesota Firearms Safety Program was established in 1955 when the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources instituted the Hunter Education Program.

Firearms Safety begins at an early age for many in their youth as they await their 1st hunt. Anyone born after December 31, 1979

must have a Firearms Safety Certificate to purchase a license to hunt with a firearm, by completing a Hunter Education and Firearm Safety Course.

Classes have been available for decades in Pelican Rapids during the months of April and September. In the past, all classes were conducted with in-person attendance, over many hours and spanning several weeks’ time.

In 2010, Minnesota added an online class option, consisting of many hours of online study by the student, two 4 hour refresher in-person classes & a 50 question test, followed by a field day.

Hunting in Minnesota is an important component of Minnesota’s outdoor recreation and heritage. It is therefore up to each hunter to be a safe, legal and responsible hunter and thus help ensure Minnesota’s hunting heritage.

A recent class in Pelican Rapids from September 16-18 was attended by 34 students that completed this course who now have a Firearms Safety Certificate

It was Frazee over Pelican, in football clash of rivals in 1946—in the rain and cold

100 years ago, October 6, 1921

• *Military Funeral -- Remains of Thom Pederson Brought Back for Burial*

The remains of Thom Pederson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Pederson of Trondhjem, arrived from France Thursday evening. The casket was in charge of Pvt. Raymond Morrison of Fort Snelling. At the request of the parents, the American Legion Post is to take charge of the funeral, which will take place Sunday afternoon, Oct. 9th, at two o’clock at Stod Church (South Immanuel Lutheran).

Thom Pederson was born Sept. 20, 1894, in Trondhjem, where he grew to manhood. He left for Camp Lewis, Wash, on May 27th. From there, he was transferred to Camp Meade and arrived in France on August 11th. He was killed in action on Sept. 30, 1918. Universally respected, kind-hearted, and honest, his memory is cherished not alone for his great sacrifice but also for his sterling manhood.

• *C. R. Frazee Resigns*

Charles R. Frazee, who has been postmaster here for the past twenty-six years, has resigned in order to devote his entire time to the banking business. Mr. Frazee is perhaps the oldest postmaster in point of service in this part of the state and has always been painstaking and faithful to his trust.

Examination to fill the place will be held on Oct. 22 at Fergus Falls and other points.

75 years ago, October 10, 1946

• *Frazee Team Too Much for Pelican*

The football game played last Friday evening in the rain and cold between Pelican Rapids and Frazee high schools didn’t turn out so good for the local team. The visitors had the advantage at halftime with two touchdowns, and although the Vikings increased their drive in the last half, they could not overcome this advantage, and the game ended 12 to 7 in favor of the Frazee team.

The visitors displayed some splendid teamwork in scoring their two touchdowns. Their ball carriers were supported by good blocking, and they gathered one first down after another to keep possession of the ball for the biggest part of the half. The Vikings scored their only counter in the early part of the third quarter when Donald Bice made a long run for the touchdown.

Fumbles were numerous in the game due to the wet field and wet ball.

• *Fire Siren Calls Out Firemen*

Shortly after seven o’clock, Monday morning, a fire was discovered in the unused barn and sometimes used as an icehouse in back of the old Aaby Hotel building. The firemen responded in record time, but before the water was poured on, the fire had gained considerable headway and was coming out one side of the roof. The blaze was soon extinguished, and outside of destroying some material, no other damage was done.

It is not known how the fire originated.

50 years ago, October 7, 1971

• *Candidates for Village Offices Unopposed*

Candidates for village offices will have no opposition on the ballot at the annual election on Tuesday, November 2. On Tuesday, the final day for candidates to file for office, a petition on behalf of Jewell (J. C.) Danielson was filed with the village clerk, placing his name on the ballot as a candidate for mayor. No other candidates are seeking the post which will be vacated by Dr. Henry Korda, mayor for the past six years.

Ray Englebretson and Roland Huseby filed for the two council seats opening this year and are also unopposed. The council members retiring after serving two terms (six years) each are Dr. Elroy Hexhum and Dr. Kenneth Albright.

Two other jobs were up for election this year also: constable and justice of the peace. There are no candidates for either position. The constable whose term expires this year is L. A. Puckett. The village has only one justice of the peace, Roland Huseby, and his candidacy for the Council will create another vacancy there.

• *Nothing Taken in Elementary School Break-In*

Apparently, nothing was disturbed during a break-in at the elementary school over the weekend.

The school was entered late Friday or early Saturday, school officials reported. Entry was gained by breaking a glass in a door at the west side of the building. A glass was also broken in the door to the office, but as far as can be determined, nothing was taken or disturbed. A large vault in the office showed no signs that anyone had attempted

Looking BACK

by Paul Gubrud,
Columnist



to force it open. It contained no money.

“I wish people would realize that we keep no money here overnight.” Elementary principal Wm. Stutsman remarked.

Supt. Chauncey Martin expressed the same sentiment, adding that it is costly to repair damage caused by the would-be thieves.

Someone was also in the high school Friday night, practicing grammar and spelling of the four-letter variety, also damaging a video recorder.

25 years ago, October 2, 1996

• *Tables Turned on Healthcare Center Administrator; Ed Terry, A Patient in P-T Rehab at PVHC*

Pelican Valley health care administrator and Terry says he knew his employees provided excellent care, but now he’s finding out first-hand just how well they do their jobs.

Terry, who has worked at PVHC for five years, the last 2 1/2 as chief administrator, suffered a stroke on July 23 and was hospitalized in Fargo for nearly six weeks.

“You don’t realize how much they care, how well they do their jobs,” said Terry.

His therapy began in the hospital just three days after the stroke and continues now in Pelican Rapids for three hours a day, five days of the week.

• *Clinic Board Decides to Keep Physician Recruitment Low Key*

There aren’t any professional “head hunters” looking for physicians to staff the Pelican Valley Health Center clinic. So far, the search is being kept low-key.

Meeting last week, the board favored keeping it that way, choosing to allow Dr. Richard Lysne of the clinic staff to follow on some personal leads.

The board is seeking to replace Dr. Roy Cordy, who resigned this past month.

In addition to recruiting a physician, the board has had to handle problems related to the absence of administrator Ed Terry, who has been on medical leave following a stroke.

Jeff & Julie Meyer, Publishers
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 to 5:00; Friday, 8:30 to 4:00
Phone: 218-863-1421 • Fax 218-863-1423



e-mail: press@pelicanrapidspress.com
Advertising Deadline: Friday
Online Version: www.pelicanrapidspress.com

ADVERTISING RATES:
Available upon request.



THE PRESS
PELICAN RAPIDS, MINNESOTA



(USPS 424-960)
The Press, published weekly by The Press,
29 West Mill, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572. Periodicals
postage paid at Pelican Rapids, MN 56572-9998.

POSTMASTER:
Please send address changes to
The Press, P.O. Box 632,
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
All subscriptions are payable in advance:
\$48 per year, in Pelican Rapids area,
post office addresses in Otter Tail County, and to Rothsay, Barnesville,
Hawley, Lake Park, Audubon and Detroit Lakes.
All other Minnesota addresses, \$50 per year.
All other U.S. addresses, \$52 per year.
NON-REFUNDABLE

SEND SUBSCRIPTIONS TO
The Press, P.O. Box 632,
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572.
© Pelican Rapids Press, 2021