

FREE

The Brunsville Blitz

Brunsville, Iowa

~ Centennial Edition ~

June 2011 Edition 8

Happy 100th Birthday, Brunsville!

The Town Too Tough to Die Celebrates a Century

We made it! After surviving the fires of '31 and '40, the Great Depression, the floods of the 30's, the famine and droughts, and the disappearance of the railway, we're ready to celebrate! Thanks to everyone who is a part of Brunsville's past, present and/or future! Together we are the town too tough to die!

Yard of the Month



Kathy Renken is this month's winner of the Four Seasons Garden Club's Yard of the Month.

Donations Appreciated

The White Horse Patrol is a sponsor of Shriners Hospitals for Children. If you'd like to donate, checks can be made out to Shriners Hospitals for Children. *Please send to:*

Shriners Hospital for Children
Processing Center
P.O. Box 1510
Ranson, WV 25438-4510

Centennial Schedule

Friday, June 24, 2011

Golf course Open
4-7pm Flea Market Open
5-7 Souvenir Shop Open
5-8 Kids' Inflatables Open - FREE
5-8 Dunk Tank Open
5-9 Classic Car Show & FREE Wells' Ice Cream
7:00 Queen Crowning
7:30 Beard Contest Judging
8:00 Free Dance at Legion featuring Riata
Food & Beverage Vendors: Corner Cafe, American Legion, Prairie Rose Golf Course, Grant Clever Clover's 4-H Club, Wells Blue Bunny

Saturday, June 25, 2011

8am-4 Rib Cook Off
9-12 Face Painting, Spin Art, Kids' Games - FREE
9-1, 4-8 Kids' Inflatables - FREE
Dunk Tank Open
9-7 Souvenir Shop Open (closed during parades)
10:00 Smile Contest
10-1 Flea Market Open
1:00 Kids' Parade
2:00 Main Parade
Following parade: White Horse Patrol Show
4:00 Softball Games (including Craig vs B'ville)
7:45 Gun Raffle & Live Auction
8:00 Free Dance at Legion featuring The Senders
10:00 Fireworks

Check out rope-making in the park's shelter house.

Food & Beverage Vendors: Corner Cafe, American Legion, Prairie Rose Golf Course, Brunsville Centennial Committee, Godfather's, Branding Iron Concessions, Zach Northway

Sunday, June 26, 2011

9am Golf Tournament
10:00 Church Service at St. Peter's Lutheran

Lindsay McFarlane's commemorative pottery is available to purchase at Iowa Prairie Bank and will be available during the Centennial.

BIRTHDAYS- Belated & Upcoming

Glenda McHale June 2
Denisse Camarena June 2
Kathy Renken June 8
Marshall Joseph Jones June 8
Rick Faber (Corner cook) June 9 -
Turned 48 and partied down
Scott Plueger June 10
Leona Martin June 11
Mayra Camarena June 17
Mel Marienau June 19
Erv Renken June 23
Charissa Schiltz June 25 - Turns 35
Stu Dickman June 25
Glenda Roepke June 26 - Wants to
play golf all day!
Mona Schiltz June 27
Kristyna Dittman June 27 - Turns 19
Abbie Dickman July 2
Deb Campbell July 9
Rosanne Osterbuhr July 13
Dan Dickman July 17

Blitz's Words of Wisdom
to Dangerous Dan:
Happy 59th birthday on June 15!

Anniversaries

Vern & Karen Harrington June 1 -
43 years of joy
Lynn & Anna Chenoweth June 8 -
Celebrated 43 years by going to the
Canadian Rockies, their anniversary
present to each other
Bill & Janice Renken June 10 -
Celebrated 49 years
Bill & Rosanne Osterbuhr June 10 -
Celebrated 38 years

Travels

Brady Marienau, 17, attended the
Iowa/Texas Pork Leadership Camp June 4-
10. He flew to Amarillo, TX and took a bus
back to Des Moines for the Pork Expo. He
visited different hog units along the
way. He was one of 8 kids from Iowa and
14 kids from Texas to attend. 2011 was
the first year the Iowa kids attended.

Recovering

Gene Dickman returned home after surgery and is doing well.

Harold Harms worried us when he fainted Saturday morning,
June 18. He is back home and doing well.

Congratulations!

Aaron & Kara Bouma had a son, Paxton Lou, on June 5. He
weighed 7 lbs., 8 oz., and was 19" long. Grandparents are Lyle
and Alice Kriener, Don Bouma and great grandma Betty Freking.

Lindsay McFarlane is due with her second child in September.

Darv Ladenthin won Craig's raffle rifle.

KUDOS TO...

**Grant Vocational Bible School
volunteers.** The kids had a great time!

Craig's Centennial Committee. Among many, The Blitz staff
truly enjoyed your Centennial celebration.

All those who helped clean and beautify the park and town in
preparation for the Brunsville Centennial.

Brunsville's Centennial Committee. Need I say more?

She's a Cutie

Kylie Westhoff, daughter of Steve & Lori, danced at the
Memorial Weekend Dance Showcase with The Turn Around.
Newshound GD thought she was so adorable.

Visits

Grandma Sheri Russ & Grandma Shirlee Wells spent time
with grandchildren Benson, Bowen & Melody over Memorial Day.
Shirlee says "hi" to all her friends here and hopes to see them on
her next visit. Sheri will be here for the Centennial celebration.

Thank You

Penny Recker says "Thank you" to all those who donated to
Relay for Life on behalf of her mother. She was overwhelmed by
the response. She had placed flamingos on lawns around
Brunsville and everyone who had a flamingo donated to the fund.
A special thank you to Gisela Dittman for taking time out of her
day to be Penny's helper by driving her around town on her golf
cart to drop off the flamingos. Also, thank you to Beth Rollinger
for the Bing cherry bars she made for the bake sale they had at
the Plymouth County Relay For Life.

The Blitz staff would like to thank everyone who provided news,
encouragement and/or donations to make The Brunsville Blitz
what it is today! Without you, there would be no Blitz!

Al Willer's Words of Wisdom:

The older I get, the faster I was.

From the Desk of Carol Maymon...

My grandfather was Edward Johnson, who built the general store and had an implement dealership in Brunsville.

My grandfather's store was located on the south side of main, on the east corner. It was a very large building. One of old postcards in the Brunsville website shows the building in the process of being built. I barely remember walking through it when I was very small. I don't remember why we were allowed; I guess my aunt Marie knew the owner at the time. I do remember a lot of the store fixtures were still in there, with some items in them. I wish I had asked more questions through the years.

I do know that he lost the store, the implement and their home, because of the depression and people owing him so much money on account. My grandmother died, the depression hit, and they lost it all. I wish I had gotten to know my grandmother, as I was told she was a very generous person, always doing things for others. Even dressing up like Santa and delivering the toys my father and his siblings outgrew, to families that didn't have anything. First one to be there when families had losses or death.

My father often talked about how she would bake a bread-type coffeecake (German coffeecake) and he would have to deliver it for her. He never did figure out how to make it; my aunts didn't seem to have the recipe. I guess she just made it her own special way.

I do remember the story about my great grandfather, Henry Johnson. You may remember in Brunsville's little history book talking about his stiff finger breaking eggs. Well, my father said he got that stiff finger from butchering a hog. He went to stick it and the hog moved and sliced his finger and it healed stiff, never was able to bend it. Dad said when he and his sister had to work in the General store, they would try and sneak a piece of candy when his grandfather wasn't looking, but when his grandfather caught them, he would use that finger and smack them on the hand. Dad said that finger was like a stick, and it smarted when he snapped in on his hand. Naturally, they would be a little sneakier next time to snatch a piece of candy. He said he was a strong-headed German grandpa and spoke in German a lot. Course dad said they had to learn it for both speaking and confirmation classes at church.

Now that I am older, and family is gone, I wish I had paid more attention to the family gatherings when they talked about their early years. I think today's children should be encouraged to visit their grandparents more and let them share their stories. Set aside a time every so often and share. Oh, and write it down, a diary. What a special gift for each party involved. Because once the grandparent, great grandparent is gone, the stories are lost. They had experienced so much through their lifetime. What a gift to be treasured for each.

** * ** **In May, Barry Wilken was home to attend his niece's graduation.**

Following are his notes.

- Barry Wilken traveled from Houston, Texas to Brunsville, Iowa (5/18/11 – 5/24/11) to visit his mother and attend his niece's (Sarah Wilken, daughter of Keith and Ann Wilken) LCHS graduation on Sunday, May 22, 2011.
- Barry expressed his appreciation to his cousin Lori Wilken for giving him a ride to Brunsville and back to the Sioux City Airport by buying her dinner at Kahill's at Marina Inn in South Sioux City, Nebraska – This is a great restaurant!
- Barry expressed his memory of Juanita Jelken at her memorial service on Saturday, May 21, 2011 by mentioning he and the other Brunsville boys desired to pick pears from the pear tree in Alvin and Juanita's front lawn with the expectation of Juanita coming out of the front door of the house screaming at the boys to get out of her pear tree. For additional information about this ritual, please contact Bill Renken.
- Barry injected approximately \$75.00 into the Brunsville economy by visiting the Corner Café several evenings and staying until closing two of those evenings – Ouch! The Corner Café is an excellent evening social venue... Thanks Dave and Andrea for opening the Corner Café and bring social life back to Brunsville. You have done a fantastic job of remodeling the Corner Café!
- A significant amount of peer pressure was put on Barry to come back to Brunsville for the Brunsville Centennial, but Barry has a commitment to attend a Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants board meeting on June 24-25, 2011 in Fort Worth, Texas.
- Barry did buy a Brunsville Centennial coffee cup at the Prairie State Bank in Brunsville (Sorry... I did not check any luggage, so that's all that would fit in my carry-on luggage).
- I look forward to seeing everyone in Brunsville soon except during the winter months.



Revisiting Brunsville's History with Mel Marienau

Perfect Look-Out

When he was quite young, Mel and his family moved to Brunsville because his dad got a job working the railroad. One of the places he lived was above the Corner Café. Out the west window Mel would watch the trains coming in and going out and the flooding of Mink Creek.

Grand Central Station

Mel can remember when 5 trains went through Brunsville a day. He'd lay a penny on the rail to get flattened... if he had a penny.

But I Swear There's a Difference

Ted Harms ran the grocery store just east of the Corner Café. When the train brought groceries to town, Mel's dad would carry coffee beans to the store for Ted. When asked where to unload the beans, Ted replied, "Half in one bin, half in the other bin." Mel's dad said, "I can't do that because one says 29 cents and the other 19 cents." Ted replied, "Some people like to drink higher priced coffee."

Overpopulated School

The little kids attended school in the east room and the bigger kids attended in the west room. However, Mel had to attend kindergarten in the church basement because the school was too full. The preacher was a teacher. His sister, who was 11 months younger, was in the same grade. The year was approximately 1925.

Tape Will Take Care of It

Irene Rees was Mel's school teacher. She caught Mel and Margaret Siebens whispering during class and taped their mouths shut.

Finders Keepers

When walking under the bridge on the north side of school, Mel found a .22 rifle in two pieces and took it home. Turns out the Johnson boy had stolen it from his dad's machinery store. When Johnson couldn't find it under the bridge, he asked at school if anyone had seen it. Mel kept quiet. After 6 months Mel decided, "That ought to be long enough," and took the gun back to machinery store. The Johnson boy's mouth dropped about a mile down. He wasn't supposed to take the gun out of the store; his dad had used it to kill rats.

Naughty, Naughty

When it was closed for a while, Mel and 4 or 5 other kids would climb to the top of the old elevator. There was a weight up top, but it was weighted for the guy who ran it. The kids cut the rope and the weight fell. They got in big trouble for their fun.

Cry Uncle

When he was 7 years old, Mel played cops & robbers. He was a robber and the "cops" put him in the jail and locked it. But they didn't have the key, so he sat in jail for about 30 minutes. The only one who had the key was the cop, and luckily the cop was his uncle. Mel's parents never knew he served a 30 minute jail term. "I used to keep a lot of stuff from my parents," he says.

To My Sister, With Love

While living on the farm, Mel shot his sister in the hand with a bb gun. He was out of bbs, so he took an old burnt wooden match and stuck in there. He told her to hold her hand up, so she did and he shot her. The black part of the match stuck in her hand. His dad booted him and placed the bb gun on top of the cupboard for 6 weeks.

Just Like In The Big City

The grocery store next to the post office had a butcher shop on the east side, clothing on west side, and groceries in the middle.

Businesses on North Side of Main Street That Burned in The Fire

From right to left: Old bank (didn't burn because it's brick), restaurant, steps up to dance hall, pool hall (all old men shooting pool & playing cards), Dirks hardware store (the fire started here), Fred Wilken's meat market, barber shop, Dickman's grocery store, another bank (its vault still standing after the fire). Across the ditch was the elevator that burned down.

We Call That Recycling

East of the Legion was a bowling alley. After the fire, Fred Wilken bought the bowling alley, tore the bowling alley floor out and used it for his store.

No Dollar For You

Brunsville had many celebrations. One of main attractions was a tame donkey. Its owner could tell the donkey to do anything and it would. He gave kids a ride on the donkey, and would pay anyone a dollar (big money in those days) if they could ride him and stay on him. A guy by the name of Weber said, "I can ride it." So he put his hands around the donkey's belly and his legs around his neck, and when the donkey couldn't buck him off, the donkey lay down and rolled. Right there on the main street. Celebrations also included prize fights and wrestling matches.

I Love Chocolate

While on the ferris wheel during one celebration, Mel lit a match in a gas barrel and it burned a big black scar around his mouth and nose. His sisters were on the ground, and when they saw him they wondered, "Why does he have chocolate around his face?"

Up Too Early or Out Too Late

On most Saturday nights there would be dances. Mel would be downtown at 4am, picking up bottles, for each he'd get a nickel. The dance hall was up 7 or 8 stairs, west of the old bank. It was on posts because the water kept rising up. Mel used to walk under the dance hall.

One of Many Characters

Ever heard of 'Boxer Bill'? "He was supposed to be a boxer, but wasn't much of a man," Mel says. He ran a beer joint in town, farmed just outside of town and lived just west of the church.

True Love Brunsville Style

Mel met his late wife, Elsie, at a Brunsville Halloween dance party. She was one of 6 girls in overalls who hitchhiked to Brunsville. Mel and Elsie were married 61 years. Mel has 5 grandkids and 7 great grandkids.

Legion Pioneer

Mel visits Brunsville a couple times a year: To the Legion for the sign-up supper & to the Memorial Day service. He has been a Legion member for over 60 years. He was one of the originals to get the Legion into Brunsville.

It's Only Getting Better

"It's a dirty shame there isn't a gas station or convenience store," Mel says. "Seems like Brunsville is growing, not going downhill."

And Now...

Mel is 91 as of June 19. He still banks at Iowa Prairie Bank in Merrill and is sharp as a tack.



Corner Quote

Damn, that sign looks good!
- Anonymous

Regular Evening Specials

Monday Alicia's Mexican Specialties
Tuesday Corner Burger & Fries \$6.95
Wednesday 8 pc. Broasted Chicken & Fries \$9.99
Thursday \$1 Off Any Basket, Burger or Dinner
Fri. & Sat.*** 8-10 oz. Prime Rib, Salad, Potato & Roll \$12.95
King Cut Prime Rib & Fries \$14.95 (***)Please note Centennial menu above)

Join Us at the Corner Cafe!

*****Friday and Saturday during the Centennial** we'll be serving ribeye steak sandwiches, hotdogs, hamburgers and brats. On Saturday we'll also serve pulled pork sandwiches and have a DJ 8pm-11



Car/Bike Cancer Run on May 21, 2011.



Horses behind the Corner, May 23, 2011.

Along the Trail of the Brunsville Centennial 5K Fun Run/Walk

Fourteen eager contestants lined up at 9am on Saturday, June 4 to complete the 5K. The starting line/finish line was located in front of Premium Feed. From there, the course continued south to the stop sign at Jet Road, took a right to the next stop sign at K-42, then north on K-42 and back the same way. Some ran, some walked. Molly Wankum had the fastest time.

Congratulations!

Molly Wankum - 1st place female
Zach Kooistra - 1st place male



Stan Korthis at the finish line.

SPORTS

SPOTLIGHT

Talkin' Baseball with Wayne Brown

When Wayne Brown moved to Brunsville in 1961, the baseball diamond was "nothing but a bunch of weeds."

"I said this will never do, so we got a bunch of the dads together, cleared the weeds out, built a backstop and starting playing ball against anyone who wanted to play us," said Brown. "We had a lot of good help from dads and in those days it didn't have to be so fancy."

Brown, who helped coach the Little Leaguers for many years, said there was hardly a kid in Brunsville who wouldn't remember playing baseball there.

"We had a lot of fun with a lot of different people on the teams through the years," said Brown. "The young kids always played baseball against the surrounding towns."

Brown, as if he was making up a lineup card today, can still rattle off who played in most positions on the field.

"Stan Dickman handled the catching, Phil Strub from Merrill was the first baseman and Jimmy Klemme played second. The shortstop was Barry Jessen from Merrill and third base was Denny McHale from Craig," said Brown. "Left field was Denny Hiles and my boy Jim covered center field like a tent. In right field was the one and only Dale Plueger."

Ever the proud papa, Wayne shared a humorous anecdote.

"My nephew played for Remsen-Union and they came over to play us one night. One of their guys hit a ball and you wouldn't believe how far he hit that thing," recalled Brown. "My uncle came up to me and said 'that's my grandson who hit that ball' and a second later I said 'that's my boy who caught it.'"

"That ballfield needed constant attention and the only way to do that was to go ahead and do it," said Brown. "My two daughters and I mowed with three mowers and we could mow that thing in a short time."

Most of those same players whom Brown nurtured as youngsters went on to play on top-notch fast-pitch softball teams in Brunsville, which he also helped coach. One of the most popular was Gene's Weenies, sponsored by Gene's butcher shop, while the Brunsville Merchants were also a salty unit.

The Brunsville diamond will be bustling on Saturday with slow-pitch softball games during the centennial celebration. Action gets under way at 4 p.m.

Chances are, some of those same players Wayne Brown talked about as little leaguers will dust off the mits for a bit of nostalgia. And, their old coach will be in the front row.

"I'll be there of course, but only as a spectator," joked Brown.

Blitz Staff

Publisher/Editor/Composer/
Reporter/Ad Rep - Susan Willer
Newshound - G.D.
Sportswriter - Barry Poe

If you'd like a copy of the Blitz emailed or mailed to you each month, please contact Susan at susanwiller@hotmail.com or write to P.O. Box 187, Brunsville, IA 51008. Thank you for your support!