



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

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Remembering Woody Shearer and his Family Legacy

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

As we prepare for the 125th year celebration of the Columbus Gazette newspaper, we think back to B.H. Shearer and his family who were long-time editors and managers of the Gazette through the generations.

It is very fitting that recently the will of Woodrow Shearer, one of the sons of B. H. Shearer, has just become public. It is we, the residents of this town, who are indeed the beneficiaries of this will. Woodrow Shearer left much of his money to various organizations and buildings in the city of Columbus Junction.

Woodrow Shearer bequeathed almost a million dollars to four organizations in this community. Exactly, he donated \$237,238.10 each to the Louisa County Responders, the Columbus Community Senior Center, the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church, and the Columbus Junction Public Library. He also donated this same amount, \$237,238.10 to both Iowa Wesleyan College (his college alma mater) and to Bonnet Prairie Cemetery in Wisconsin, the home state of his wife, Adelaide. This totals \$1,422,342.80 in donations and an additional \$20,000 was given to the Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Looking into Woodrow's past, he married Adelaide Ogilvie of Madison, Wisconsin, on May 20, 1946, at the St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Dubuque, Iowa. She taught at Columbus High School in Columbus Junction for many years. As mentioned he attended Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant and served in the military, although



Pictured in the Gazette Office getting out the Fair programs, left to right: Maude Shearer, Helen Aringdale, Harley Cole, Sam Dwinell, Woodrow Shearer, B. H. Shearer

he was never sent overseas. During the Depression, he became the official photographer of WPA projects, and he worked for his father at the Columbus Gazette. He later became the Postmaster of the Columbus Junction Post Office, but even then, he often could be found evenings at the Gazette office helping to get out the paper, especially the Louisa County Fair edition, which was a big job.

Steve Sents, local attorney, described Woodrow Shearer as "someone who was so much more than what

he did. He was a person of depth who had an appreciation of culture as well as the community." He went on to say that Shearer was "dignified" as well as "astute." He was a "private person" who often observed and found an "appreciation of people"

John Carpenter, now editor of the Gazette, said that "Woodrow Shearer was a generous person who wouldn't ask you to do something for him without giving you something in return." This fact is obvious as we look at what Shearer has given to our community today.

If I might add a personal story on Woodrow, it is this: As a small child my parents, Paul and Jeannette Masonholder, were friends of Woodrow and Adelaide. Dad used to "hang out" at the Gazette to talk to "Woody", as Dad and many others called him. Woodrow and Adelaide invited our family to eat a meal with them one evening at their house. Woodrow and Adelaide had no children. I don't know what I expected to happen at their house, but my mother told my brothers and me to be on our best behavior. To our delight, following the meal, Woodrow put on a magic show for us. As little as I was, I never forgot it. I don't think

"magic" was a regular Woodrow hobby. I'm sure he had practiced this to provide us young children some entertainment. How thoughtful of him!

Even in his later years, Woodrow lived at Colonial Manor but he managed to make it to church. He always had his white shirt and tie on; however, this was not unusual, as he wore the same formal clothing at home. Propriety was important to him.

Woodrow was a quiet, unassuming man, who would not like attention being paid to him. However, when we ride in an ambulance with life-saving equipment and attend events in buildings that he helped sponsor, we, of Columbus Junction, cannot help but be thankful for the life of Woodrow Shearer. His quiet, unassuming ways have reached out to all of us in his giving of almost one million dollars to this community. What a wonderful representative of the Shearer family he is, and of the kind of people who have worked at the Gazette. Much was left to Woodrow from the Shearer's, and he has passed it on to us. He is a shining symbol of 125 years of Columbus Junction news and the richness of life in this small town.

The Gazette Prepares for it's 125th year of Publication

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

Like everything and everyone, the Gazette is getting older. In fact, in May this newspaper will be 125 years old! Not bad for an industry where many big newspapers are folding due to lack of readership.

We, at the Gazette, are proud of our longevity and we plan to hold a celebration on Thursday, May 24. Right now, put the date of May 24th on your calendar and plan to stop in for a part of the day.

Our plans are still in infancy stage, but we know there will be some refreshments and displays of old household items, farm items, old toys, and old pictures and newspapers portraying life in CJ over the years.

We have a request. We would like to have the names of anyone who may have been a correspondent for the Gazette. Correspondents were the people who wrote news for the paper. Many of them lived in a particular neighborhood and reported on the comings and goings of everyone. We also would like to know if anyone is still alive who was a correspondent, writer, or worked for the Gazette. We would like to have you present for part of the day at our birthday celebration.

The "wheels are just starting to turn" as we get ready for this big event in the life of this newspaper. Please bring us any news or information that you have that we could share. If you have old pictures of CJ, we would love to see those too and scan them. We also want to honor the B. H. Shearer family, who for generations edited this newspaper. Details on this event will be appearing in the paper from now until then.

This newspaper has been **Your** newspaper for 125 years! We want to show **YOU** our appreciation. Plan on being here on May 24th.

River Products Employees honored

The employees of River Products Company received recognition at the Iowa Limestone Producers Association's 67th annual convention held recently in Iowa City.

River Products employees operating in the Klein Quarry, Stripping Crew, Portable Plant #1, and Columbus Junction Underground were honored for working the entire year of 2011 without a lost-time accident.

The Iowa Limestone Producers Association sponsors a safety contest each year to give recognition to those member companies and employees who strive, as part of their every day activities, to work safely. This increased emphasis on safety has been a major factor in changing quarry work from a dangerous occupation, to where it is one of the safest place to be employed in Iowa.

Body found in Iowa River

On Saturday, March 31, 2012 at 2:38 p.m., the Louisa County Sheriff's Department received a 911 call, of a body found in the Iowa River, south of the Highway 70 river bridge. This was reported by two subjects who had been fishing at the river.

Officers from the Louisa County Sheriff's Office, Columbus Junction Police Department, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Iowa State Patrol responded to the call, along with Columbus Junction Fire and Rescue.

The body of a male subject was subsequently recovered from the river. The subject was taken to the Department of Criminal Investigation Crime Lab, where an autopsy was completed.

An investigation into the identity, of the subject is ongoing with the Louisa County Sheriff's Office, Columbus Junction Police Department and the State Medical Examiner's Office.

The Louisa County Medical Examiner's office and Columbus Junction Ambulance assisted at the scene.

Area Easter Services Spring Run Church

The Spring Run Church at X-17 and 90th Street in southwest Louisa County will hold the following services: Good Friday - At 7 pm (A Good Friday Message and Holy Communion will be served); Easter Sunday - 9:15 am (An Easter Celebration will include a mini-concert with Mike and Deb Richart of New London and an Easter Message entitled, "An Easter Walk with the Master." For More Information contact Interim Pastor Randy Whitsel at 319-931-2012 or 319-728-2842

Salem Welsh/Cotter

Salem Welsh/Cotter congregation will hold an brunch at 8 AM on Easter Sunday.

Pleasant Grove Church

Pleasant Grove Church is announcing Easter Sunday services. The church will be having an 8 a.m. sunrise breakfast with fellowship. Worship service will follow at 9 a.m. Guests are welcome.

1st United of Morning Sun

Join Pastor Ramona Wink and the congregation of the 1st United Presbyterian Church in Morning Sun for a very special Easter service. Worship begins at 10:45 a.m. The choir will perform and communion will be served. ALL are welcome to partake in this Holy sacrament. A very special gift will be given to ALL. Come worship the SON on Easter Sunday in Morning Sun, where the SON is always shining!

Grandview Bible Church

Grandview Community Bible Church has released its 2012 Easter Schedule. April 5th, 6th, and 7th: "God's Masterpiece" Dinner Theatre. Doors open at 6 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets (\$10.00) are available at the church or Corner Market. April 8th: 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast in the Friendship Center; 10:00 a.m. - Easter Worship Service (No Sunday School or Evening Service).

Grace United Church of Christ

The Grace United Church of Christ is announcing its Easter Services schedule: Maudy Thursday at 7 p.m. Easter Sunday: Worship at 7 a.m. with breakfast following. Second worship service at 9 a.m.

Briefly -

Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Tuesday, April 10 at the home of Marsha Gerot. We will leave from the Legion Building at 6:30 and travel together. Please remember to bring items mentioned at our last meeting that we plan to send to the Toledo Juvenile Home for boys. Check last week's Gazette for details and items needed.

Business Professionals blood drive

Columbus Community High School's Business Professional Association will host a blood drive on Monday, April 9th from 11:30 am-4:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 99 Second Street, Columbus Junction. To donate call Robin McClanahan at 319-728-2231 x3624. Walk-ins welcome! Donors must be at least 16 years old, in good health, and weigh at least 110 pounds. A Blood Donor card or other photo I.D. is required to donate; 16-year-old donors must present a signed parental consent form, available from the Blood Center or for download from www.bloodcenter.org. Controlled high blood pressure and diabetics are acceptable.

Baked Potato Supper

The Columbus Community United Methodist Church is having a baked potato supper on Saturday, April 21st from 5-7 p.m. The menu includes: Baked potatoes with all the toppings; salads and several desserts. The public is invited and welcome. A free will offering will be accepted.

Alumni Banquet set

The Columbus area Alumni Banquet will take place at Roundy Elementary School on June 9, 2012. Social Hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., and Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Special recognition will be given to the 50-year (1962) class and the 25-year (1987) class. Put the date on your calendar now!

CJ Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Columbus Junction Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2012. The Hunt will begin at 1 pm on the White House lawn - Columbus Community School's Administrative Office on Colton Street. Come join Lisa Exline - coordinator, for a great time and meet the Easter Bunny. Friends of the Library will be there reading Peter Rabbit! Call 728-7972 or 319-750-0801 if you have any questions.

Foot Screenings at Great River

West Burlington, Iowa, April 2, 2012 - Great River Center for Rehab and Clinics staff will provide free diabetic foot screenings from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, at the Center for Rehab and Clinics, 1401 W. Agency Rd., West Burlington. The screening is for people who have diabetes or loss of sensation in their feet. Appointments are required. Those interested in scheduling an appointment should call the Center for Rehab and Clinics at 319-768-4100.

Half Hour Club to meet

The Half Hour Club will meet on Tuesday, April 10, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Joan Crafton. Margaret Bloomquist is serving as co-hostess. Program: Changes in local agriculture from cantaloupe to corn by Terry Bell. Roll Call: April Fool's story.

Storm Spotter Training

The annual Louisa County Storm Spotter Training will be this Thursday, April 5th at 6:30 pm at the Wapello Ambulance Base. Any questions should be directed to Louisa County Emergency Management Coordinator, Staci Griffin at 319-750-1128 or louisama@louisacomm.net.

Legislative Forum Set

A Legislative Forum will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2012, with Senator Tom Courtney and Representative Tom Sands at the State Bank of Wapello Community Room from 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM.

Letts Fire Department Fish Fry

The Letts Fire Department will hold a fish and chicken fry on Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 5 p.m. The cost is \$9.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children.

Easter Bunny at Morning Sun Care Center

Morning Sun Care Center, an ABCM Corporation home, is sponsoring its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, April 6 at 2:00. Children of all ages will be divided into categories for the hunt and all will have the opportunity for pictures with the Easter Bunny. Refreshments will be served and the community is encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Angie Smith at 868-7751.

Amateur Radio Exams

The Muscatine Area Volunteer Examiners will be testing for all classes of amateur radio operator licenses on Sunday, April 8, at 1:30 PM at the Flickinger Learning Center, 413 Mulberry Avenue, in Muscatine. (Use the 5th street parking lot and entrance across from Hy-Vee Drugstore.) For more information, visit muscatinehams.org.

Shooting Stars Potato Bar

The Shooting Stars 4-H Club will be hosting a FREE potato bar for the congregation of the Pleasant Grove Community Church on Sunday, April 15, 2012 at 6 p.m. The group will serve baked potatoes with all the fixings, assorted salads and desserts with drinks as part of their service project. Congregation members and family members of the Shooting Stars are invited to attend.

Titanic at the Library

A Titanic event will take place at the Columbus Junction Public Library on Saturday, April 14 from 4-7 p.m. It will feature a tasting table of the foods served 100 years ago. We will have exhibits, movies, and a model ship. The highlight of the evening will be an appearance of the Unsinkable Molly Brown, presented by our very own Rosemary Harris. Rosemary's presentation will begin at 5 p.m. Come at 4 p.m. to enjoy the food and exhibits and honor the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

T.T.T. to meet

The April 12th meeting of Chapter R T.T.T. will be held at the home of Kathy Moore with Mary Wilson as co-hostess. Please note: This is a change of location from the printed program.

United Methodist Women to meet

The United Methodist Women, Columbus Junction will meet in the home of Marilyn Ortberg today, Wednesday, April 4, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. Leader - Carla Harris. Hostesses - Marilyn Ortberg and Sharee Owens. Please bring your favorite cup and saucer with a brief story.