

## Anticipating the coming Spring season

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

It's that time of the year again when area residents attempt to predict and prepare for the spring thaw.

Although the majority of our snow is now gone, eyes are turning to the snowpack still remaining in northern Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

A good deal of snow still resides in these areas, and it will inevitably come our way. Chances of flooding will be determined on how quickly the snow melts, and more especially on the amount of rain that is received this spring season.

One and one-half inches fell in the Columbus Junction area over the weekend, but with most of our snow now gone, very little flood issues were encountered. Crooked Creek near Winfield was out of its banks on Sunday, but the Iowa and Cedar Rivers remain steady. There are reports of some basement flooding in the Conesville community due to the excessive moisture that was in the ground when winter began.

If we are able to skirt through this spring with minimal flooding, the community should be able to breathe easier in future springs as work will begin as soon as weather permits on the new levee. It is hoped that most of the levee work can be completed over the summer so it will be able to stand as a barrier next year.

Also, work will begin as soon as possible on the city's new water plant. This new plant will be located outside of the flood plain, thus eliminating the annual concern as to whether flood waters will enter the city's water supply.

But the spring also brings another issue, clean-up after the winter snow melt. There is an unusual amount of trash in the downtown area this year. We are now an affiliated city with Keep Iowa Beautiful, and many plans are in the works to make Columbus Junction a more attractive place to live, work and play. So please, begin now in our annual task of preventing litter. If you see it, pick it up, if you have litter, please put it in a receptacle.



Some of the litter in the downtown park.

As with every spring, litter and flooding are the two issues that our community deals with. With a sense of dedication and pride among all of our citizens, we can do something about the litter issue.

As far as the flooding issue goes, all we can do is wait and see. But as the snow melts north of us, we'll soon know what happens. Like the monkey who got his tail caught in a fan said, "It won't be long now."

## Local resident's truck featured in national magazine

(Reprinted with permission  
from Vintage Truck Magazine)

By Bob Nicholson

The competition can spin and hype their trucks all they want, but they cannot argue with one indisputable fact: Ford's F-series pickup trucks have been the number one selling trucks in this country for at least 31 years and counting. They are a prime example that the United States still does a few things right. Ford F-series trucks have had well-deserved worldwide recognition as being tough and durable for more than 62 years and have been a fixture on Ford's bottom line longer than any other model.

When the 1975 Ford pickups appeared, the sixth generation of F-series trucks was in its third year. A distinctive body-length indentation ran the length of the body and bed and earned the series the moniker, "dent-sides." It was the location of choice for side marker lights and optional bright aluminum trim moldings.

The 1975's were so little changed in appearance from the 1973 and 1974 models that about the only people who can tell the difference between them are those who make it their business to know it. Be that as it may, 1975 was a benchmark year in which Ford managed to shove the "high side" of 400,000 units out the door to willing buyers with cash in hand, in a less-than-robust economy to boot.

Engine choices for the 1975 Ford pickup trucks were as follows: 240ci I-6 (available as a special order), 300ci I-6, 302ci, 360ci, 390ci, and 460ci V-8. Solid state ignition systems were standard on all 1975 Ford truck engines; the old breaker systems had gone the way of the 1974s when buyers could still opt for either. Manual transmissions began with the base Ford column-shift three-speed (with a synchromesh

first gear) and progressed upward through Warner T-18 and NP 435 four-speeds. Automatics were either a Ford C-4 or C-6, depending on engine choice.

Shortly after World War II, buyers began to perceive pickup trucks as more than strictly "corncrib utilitarian" works of art. As the public accepted trucks as substitutes for a second car, owners began dressing them up with personalized options. This transition was in full swing by 1975. Dress-up options for new 1975 Ford F-100 and F150 pickups included full-size wheel covers, which originally appeared on the 1971 Ford LTD automobiles. A Ranger XLT trim package and two-tone paint combinations were well received. Paint choices offered a far-ranging litany of colors and color combinations that include Raven Black, a staple from the earliest years of the F-series.

The already dizzying array of color choices included two more optional-for-1975 shades, Ginger Glow and Medium Green Glow (in 1974 these optional shades had been Gold Glow and Ivy Glow). Air conditioning was moving up fast on the list of popular options, and the cool air flowed through the integrated dash vents were a common design feature on automobiles at this time, such a thing was unheard of for trucks.

**Delmore Evans' 1975 F-150**

None of this was in Delmore Evans' mind when he purchased his 1975 F-150 Ranger secondhand in 1977 when it had only 36,000 miles on the odometer (today it has approximately 96,000 miles). Like the 400,000+ buyers of new 1975 Ford F-series trucks, he simply recognized a solid value when he bought it. It had "hit the road" as a new truck in Tipton, Iowa, so Del didn't have to go through the head-scratching process of choosing options for it.

There is good reason to believe the truck might have been a "dealer



Del Evans' 1975 Ford F-150 series truck. The two-tone paint job on this truck combines the standard Glen Green and the optional Medium Green Glow. Photo by Bob Nicholson

stock" item. According to the VIN plate on the driver's door, one color of the two-tone paint scheme is Medium Green Glow, an optional 1975 color, and the other is Glen Green, a standard color. This could have been and assembly line choice that Ford made to promote the optional color.

Otherwise, the truck has many popular amenities that any discerning 1975 truck purchaser would appreciate, such as the 390ci engine, C-6 automatic transmission, power steering, power brakes, and air conditioning. It didn't, however, include other available options that were also gaining popularity, such as power windows, tilt steering wheel, or cruise control.

The first owner had removed the tailgate and installed a camper. When Del bought the truck, the tailgate and hardware came with it, still looking as new and unarmished as the day when it came off the assembly line. He hung the tailgate on his garage wall when he brought it home, and it remains there to this day.

Del never drove the truck to work. Of course, being the almost-for-life mayor of Columbus City, Iowa, and doing street maintenance and snow removal in the process, he wouldn't have had to drive far, anyway. It's mostly been a "grocery getter" since he's owned it, and it has been a familiar sight on the streets of Columbus City and its suburb, Columbus Junction, for a long time. The farthest that Del has ever driven the truck was to Herman, Missouri, to help his son.

Del has turned down several offers to purchase the truck, including one from a guy from Arkansas who wanted to buy it on the spot when he saw the Ford at the local Casey's General Store in Columbus Junction. It's no doubt one of the cleanest 1975 Ford F-150s anyone has seen in some time, and if Del has anything to say about it, it will continue to be just that. His meticulously maintained (and rare) 1984 Buick LeSabre and two Ariens riding lawn movers bear witness to that.

## Bob Schlutz honored as 2011 Friend of the Iowa Beef Expo

By Carmen Lawrence,  
Gazette Staff

Monday, February 14, 2011 (Valentine's Day for the general population), was a day that Bob Schlutz, of rural Columbus Junction, will not soon forget. Not only because he spent it with his wife and sweetheart, Marillyn, of nearly 57 years, but because he was recognized by the State of Iowa House of Representatives for his other love - Angus cattle. He was named the 2011 Friend of the Iowa Beef Expo.

Schlutz has been a promoter and breeder of Angus cattle for more than 60 years. He has been involved with the Iowa Beef Expo as a breeder, a past president of the Iowa Angus Association and the Iowa Beef Breeds Council. He has served on the board of the American Angus Association,

the Certified Angus Beef Board, the Angus Foundation Board, the Iowa Foundation of Ag Advancement, and as an Iowa State Fair Board member for almost 20 years.

In 1948, Bob bought his first registered Angus heifer for \$225 as a 4-H project. In 1953, Schlutz's parents, Dale and Esther, formed a partnership with him that soon became known as Da-Es-Ro (Dale, Esther and Robert) Angus. Bob and Marillyn spent their early years traveling the country and exhibiting their Angus cattle against other breeders. It was a difficult way to promote cattle, but the Schlutz's built up their reputation for nationally recognized, good Angus beef. In 1992, Da-Es-Ro won grand champion honors at the National Western Stock Show in Denver with their bull Casey.

Each year, Bob and Marillyn market 35-45 elite yearling and 2-year-old bulls through private treaty sales and high profile Angus functions. They also host an annual production sale the second Saturday of December, where customers across the nation can purchase a select set of heifers and a handful of bulls.

In the past, Schlutz has been honored with the National Angus Hall of Fame award, Angus Heritage Foundation award, a District Soil Conservation award, and various local community awards and has been recognized by Governor Vilsack for contributions to the well being of Iowa's children.

Speaking from personal experience, I can tell you Bob and Marillyn Schlutz are not only friends to the Iowa Beef Expo but to their neigh-

## Briefly -

### City Council to meet tonight

City of Columbus Junction will hold a public hearing / regular meeting today Wednesday, Feb 23 at 5:30 p.m. at the new Civic Center / City Hall. Public Hearing - Proposed 2011 - 12 budget.

### GOP Scholarship meeting

The annual corporation meeting of the Muscatine GOP Scholarship Foundation will be held on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 414 E. Third Street. All contributors are invited to attend.

### Senator Grassley to be in County

Senator Chuck Grassley's Louisa County visit has been changed from a meeting with the Columbus Junction Lions, to a public town meeting in Wapello. All Louisa County residents are invited and encouraged to attend. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this change. Details are below. CANCELLED: Monday, February 21, 2011 6-7 p.m. Speak to Columbus Junction Lions, Columbus Community Senior Center, 115 E. Walnut St., Columbus Junction. ADDED: Monday, February 21, 2011 6-7 p.m. Meet with Louisa County residents, Louisa County Town Meeting, Wapello Ambulance Building, 400 Highway 61 S., Wapello.

### Habitat for Humanity Soup Supper

Louisa County Habitat for Humanity will host their annual Celebration Soup Supper, Sunday, February 27 at the United Methodist Fellowship Hall in Wapello from 5 - 7 p.m. There will be entertainment, a brief recognition program starting at 6:15 p.m., and door prizes. Everyone is welcome!

### Kindergarten Round-up

Will you child be old enough to attend school at Roundy Elementary, Columbus Junction, IA, this fall? Roundy Elementary is preparing for Kindergarten. If your child was born before September 15, 2006, and is not currently enrolled in the Columbus Preschool Program, KFC Preschool, or the Great Beginnings Preschool Program, please call the school at 319-728-6218.

Usted cree que su hijo/a tendra la edad necesaria para empezar el Kindergarten en el Otono del 2011? Tendra su hijo/a la edad necesaria para asistir a la Escuela Primaria Roundy en Columbus Junction, IA, este otono? La Escuela Primaria Roundy se esta preparando para Kindergarten. Si su nino/a nacio antes del 15 de Septiembre del 2006 y no esta inscrito actualmente en el Programa del Preescolar de Columbus, el Programa Preescolar de KFC, o en el Programa Preescolar Great Beginnings, por favor llame a la escuela al 728-6218.

### Cattlemen's Banquet scheduled

The Annual Louisa County Cattlemen's Banquet will be held today, Wednesday, February 23, 2011, at the American Legion in Columbus Junction, Iowa. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with supper at 6:00 p.m. The evening will include awards, Iowa Cattlemen's Report and Speaker, Craig Grothe. Tickets available at the door. For more information, contact Tom Bonnichsen at 319-729-2020 or Wade Edwards at 319-631-1708.

### Louisa Longbeards Banquet set

The eleventh annual Louisa Longbeards Banquet is being held Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. A prime rib supper will be served at the Briggs Civic Center, Wapello. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for guests to participate in games, raffles, and review items for silent and live auction, etc. Early bird ticket packages and supper tickets must be purchased by Tuesday, March 1. Any questions concerning the banquet or becoming a member, please contact Dave Boysen at 319-572-1551 or Todd Shutt at 319-572-1522.

### Parents' ITBS meeting set

Parents of 6<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade students are encouraged to attend an informational presentation about the upcoming ITBS and ITED tests. The meeting will be held at the Las Vegas Ballroom on Saturday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 p.m. The Columbus Parent Organization will provide light refreshments. School administrators and staff will be presenting information about the importance of the tests, and ways parents can help their children be prepared to give their best effort. For more information, you may call the school at 319-728-2231. Translation services will be provided.

### RSVP Club happenings

Join your friends and the R.S.V.P. Club of the Columbus Junction State Bank as we see the Doug Gabriel Show, Sunday, March 6 in Cedar Rapids. This show has been one of our "must-sees" in Branson. When we discovered that his show was coming to Cedar Rapids, we said, "Let's go!" Gabriel has been voted the best guitarist in Branson and his show is one of the best! On Sunday, March 6, we will leave Columbus Junction at 1:00 p.m. (doesn't interfere with church services), the show starts at 3:00 p.m. we'll stop for supper at the Coral Ridge Mall in Coralville and be home by early evening. The price is \$75.00 (supper on your own). Call or email Ramona Wink TODAY. 319-212-0366 or wink123@lisco.net. We have only a few seats left. Make a memory with a Really Special Variety of People!

### Dinner and a Show

On Saturday March 5th you have a chance to support over 100 Columbus High School students. Have a Chinese dinner prepared by the Columbus Girls Basketball team from 4 pm-6 pm. Free will donations will be accepted. Then catch Mr. Kowalski and Mrs. Sulzberger's first "March Winds Blow" performance at 7 pm in the auditorium. Look forward to seeing you there!

bors as well. The couple keeps some of their cattle in my family's pasture throughout the year. They are always there to mow our pasture or shovel out our driveway after a big snow. They have supported all of the neighborhood kids that are in 4-H and FFA, and are HUGE supporters of the Louisa County Fair.

Their involvement not only in the state of Iowa, but also in Louisa County agriculture, has helped numerous youth in the county fulfill goals in agricultural vocations.

Bob Schlutz has always loved working in the cattle industry, so it was fitting that he be recognized on the day of love for being named Friend of the Iowa Beef Expo. If only all of us could be recognized by the state for being able to do a profession we loved, Iowa would have a lot of happy workers - just like Bob has a lot of happy cows.

