



RAMBLINGS

By: Josh Ellis  
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Windowpane

A sound from long ago found its way into my head recently. I'm not sure why, I'm not sure how, but I can hear it.

I can hear it like I heard it many years ago, even though many years ago I didn't know I was listening to it. It was just there.

It was just there like so many other things that are just there that we don't know we are going to need or want later.

So it goes.

The rattling of a pane of glass in the window of an old wooden door. A wooden door that sticks a little, so you have to lean into it a bit to get it to open. You have to put your scrawny 12-year-old shoulder into it as you turn the knob. And as your scrawny 12-year-old shoulder presses against the door, your ear is drawn close to the windowpane. The windowpane that rattles a bit. Not a lot, but enough to be heard 40 years later.

The reason I pressed my scrawny 12-year-old shoulder into that door as I turned the knob, the reason my ear was drawn close to that rattling windowpane that I hear now, was because Grandpa Fritz's wood shop was on the other side of that door. On the other side of that windowpane that announced your arrival with a bit of a rattle...not a lot, but enough to be heard 40 years later.

Forty years later...the wood shop, the door, the window-pane, and my grandpa are no more, but the sounds have found me again.

The sound of the saws, the sound of the hammer, the sound of sandpaper...the distinct sound of silence from Grandpa Fritz.

A welcoming silence.

A silence that I would try so very hard to quietly ease into despite the glass pane announcing my arrival.

I didn't know it then, but I see it now. Grandpa Fritz was the first person to teach me the beauty and necessity of solitude and that it was permissible to be silent in the company of others...permissible to just be. Grandpa's wood shop was a place that I knew I could just be, before I even knew that sometimes I needed to just be.

A welcoming silence. He never looked annoyed that I had entered his sanctum. He would just glance up from whatever it was he was creating, and in that glance, when his silent "welcome" washed over his kind eyes and to his warm smile, I knew...I felt...without a word...that it was okay for me to just sit...to just be.

The sound of a rattling windowpane in an old wooden door. A wooden door that sticks a little. Lean into it.

A Look at the Past



Week of May 21

**70 years**  
Bowbells High School will have 12 seniors graduating. Obituaries: William Kleinert, 55, rural Columbus.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Yahn celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Birth: son to Mr. and Mrs. George Allen.

**60 years**  
Obituaries: Nils L. Simonson, 80, of Bowbells; Orvin Varud, 63, of Powers Lake.

Nine seniors will graduate from Portal. Lois Mattison is valedictorian and Ronald Gardner and Suzanne Clingman, co-salutatorians.

Births: son to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Johnson; son to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Brendefur; son to Capt. and Mrs. Clarence Summers Jr.

**50 years**  
Lignite Boys Staters named as Mike Greenfield, Larry Granrud and Daryl Kelley.

Births: daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Allan Erickson; son to Mr. and Mrs. Craig Shumake.

Stanton Grubb was selected from Powers Lake to attend Boys State.

Bowbells Jayceettes were awarded Outstanding Chapter for North Dakota. Some members include Jan Zook, Rosalie Melby, Vickie Aufforth, Linda Mahlum, Sandy Siemers and

Bernnie Linster.

Powers Lake graduating class has 27 students; Burke Central, 24; Bowbells, 22; Columbus, 24; Flaxton, 12.

**40 years**  
Farmers United Elevator will build a new facility in Bowbells.

Curt Christensen of Burke Central is the 1985 ND State Class B Champion in the javelin.

Attending Girls and Boys State from Bowbells will be Tammy Olson, Jade Parkinson and Kyle Melby.

Births: son to Laureen Bryan and Arlen Ruff; son to Mr. and Mrs. "Chub" Zepp; son to Mr. and Mrs. Dana Hoheisel; daughter to Todd and Sandy Shefstad.

Vic Hass received awards for 25 years for driving bus for the Bowbells School system.

**30 years**  
Powers Lake has 19 seniors graduating and 14 are honor students.

Birth: son to Penn and Corrin Westberg.

Obituaries: Helen G. Steffen, 80, of Bowbells; Oscar Poline, 73, of Bowbells; Raymond "Swanny" Swenson, 82, of Bowbells.

**20 years**  
For the second year in a row Bowbells has been named Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Eighteen seniors will be receiving diplomas in Burke County.

Drew Espeseth was selected for Boys State.

Dacotah Bank awarded a scholarship to Joy Corey.

Andrew Birkeland and Leann Streifel received NCC scholarships.

Birth: daughter to Jason and Ashley Ehlke.

Wade and Rita Gulbrandson and Norman and DeLette Winkelman celebrate their 50th anniversaries.

**10 years**  
Public Service Commission approves siting permit for pipeline project in Burke and Divide counties.

Flashing yellow arrow signals are being installed across North Dakota.

Memorial Day services are being held in Bowbells, Lignite/Portal and Powers Lake communities.

Obituaries: Irene Walcker, 83, of Riverdale; Eva Oas, 98, of Columbus.

Burke Central Students of the Week: Alex Feri, Erica Smith and Gavin Nygard.

Portal Masonic Lodge #84 announces scholarship winners for 2015 as Haley Allen and Lakin Peterson.

Children from the church school program at the Bowbells United Methodist Church made fleece pillows as a service project. The pillows will be donated to area children through Burke County Social Services.

May 16 and 17 brought over 2½ inches of rain, mixed with sleet and snow. Sunday afternoon's temperatures remained in the 30s with 25 mph winds. Snow/ice pellet drifts were

spotted in ditches Monday morning, May 18 with a low of 25 degrees during the early morning hours. The forecast calls for sunshine for the remainder of the week, reaching the low 70s by Thursday.

**one year**  
Bowbells School embraces Beef Month: Michael Matte hosted a field trip for the Bowbells students to learn where their food comes from.

Whitney Rick, a 7th-12th grade math teacher at Burke Central School, was selected as the 2024 Teacher of the Year for Burke County by Superintendent of Public Instruction, Kirsten Baesler.

Beth Aufforth had the privilege to teach English to three generations, Penny Dorner, Amber Heitzig and Chelsea and Mya Woodbeck.

Obituary: Alice Smith, 83, of Apache Junction.

Norman and Connie Westerness are celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Success for Honkers and Ranchers at Northwest Regionals. Honker boys place second (11 individuals qualify for State). Ranchers qualify for Relay Team and Discus.

Bowbells Poppy Poster winners were in the 4th grade: 1st place Allison Schertel, 2nd Teagan Lucy and 3rd Daxton Undhjem; 5th grade: 1st place Gabriel Schertel, 2nd Bradee Seime and 3rd Koehn Nelson; 6th grade; 1st place Addie Peterson, 2nd Jackson Wettstein and 3rd Wyatt Aufforth.

Kitchen creations

**SAUSAGE STEW**

1 lb. bulk sage pork sausage (sage is important)

1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen corn (I've used 1 can of corn instead.)

2 c. frozen peas and carrots

1-1/2 c. diced peeled potatoes

1 c. chopped tomato

1 can (11.5 oz.) condensed split pea w/ham and bacon soup, undiluted

1 -1/4 c. water

1/2 c. celery

1/2 c. chopped onion

1/4 c. chopped green pepper

1- 1/2 tsp. dill weed

1 -1/2 tsp. chili powder

In a Dutch oven, brown and crumble the sausage; drain. Add remaining ingredients; cover and bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 25-30 minutes or until potatoes are tender.

Makes 4-6 servings.

Wanda Olaf of Williston writes, "The recipe can easily be stretched by adding extra potatoes. You can also cook on low in crock pot all day. Enjoy!!!"

EARLY DEADLINE

All information needs to be into the office by Friday noon, May 23

*Tribune Office CLOSED MAY 26*

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Dakota Attitude

by James Puppe

Melvin & Verone Stutrud

Interview: August 22, 2017  
County: Pierce  
City: Barton

Born in 1923, Melvin grew up on a family farm. He says it was "pretty tough. Yeah, you know things were hard up them days. Had work to do, then we had cows to milk and clean barn and chickens and pigs. Yep. I know I was herding cows on horseback at 10 years old. Mile and half or so from home. You had to keep 'em off o' the other guy's property. I was out a few hours. Carried water in an old syrup can.

"In the spring o' the year when it thawed, I was walkin' along [from school]. It had frozen over again, and I fell in just right over my overshoes. We poured the water out of 'em and then put them on again. Then we had a mile left to go. But by the time we got home, my pants was dried. Well, it

must have been a sunny afternoon, then.

"When my draft number came up, I was deferred. Nobody was left there [on the farm]. My oldest brother, he had polio, so he [was] lame so he really couldn't do too much. So I worked on the farm from then on."

"He met me," Verone explains, "and we got married."

Melvin says, "Forty-three I think it was. I rented a farm east of Barton. We didn't buy the farm right away because there wasn't such a thing as money."

The times were improving. Melvin says, "I was hayin' with horses, putting up the hay with horses, and come Saturday we went to Bottineau. She went to Red Owl for groceries, and I went to John Deere, and I talked with Bob Page."

Through Page, Melvin was able to take home a John Deere tractor, "He said I could pay him next fall. I don't think we even shook hands. We kinda paid, probably \$200 that day. I paid 'em after harvest. He was a good guy, Bob Page. You got good people and you got just people, I call 'em. It's two



grades o' people. You know the rest of the story. I know good people when I meet 'em. Them

days, we had people, these good ones."

Fighting to Raise the Flag

Mark Schlenker

Interview: August 15, 2017  
County: LaMoure  
City: Alfred

Mark Schlenker was born in 1958, and grew up in Alfred, a town of about eight residents. He has five sisters.

"Back then, when I was young," he says, remembering his hometown, "there was a neighbor every mile to half mile away and there was a family there an' that's probably one o' the biggest changes I've seen. Now if you have trouble alongside a road, if you don't have cell phone service you just take off walkin', because nobody's gonna come by. It's just that desolate out here where there's just nobody no more. That's a big change."

Mark remembers his grade-school years, "We raised the flag every morning, and every-

body fought to go get the flag and put it up. We had to fold it just right back then. Yep, military fold, corner to corner."

Right after high school graduation, Mark went right into farming. He now lives in Jamestown where his wife is a registered nurse. That gives him quite a commute.

He says, "I drive 70 miles a day, six days a week [back and forth to the farm.]"

The Schlenker family has been renting the same land for many years.

Mark explains, "Some we've farmed was rented by my grandpa, then my dad, and now me. [With] my son, it'll be four generations. Same piece o' land."

How do they do that?

"Just can't take it for granted. Good relationship."

Mark and his son, Ryan, who

is also farming, enjoy a daily home-cooked meal with Mark's mom and dad in their home near Alfred, where he grew up.

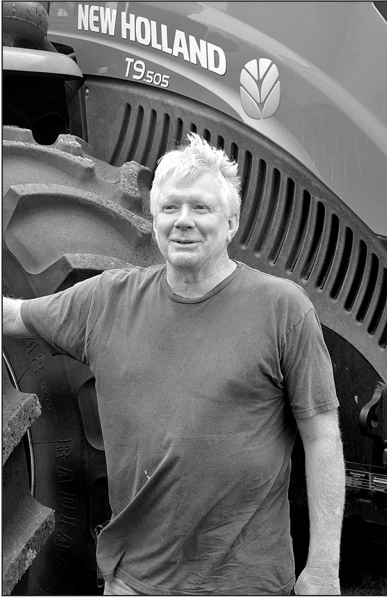
Mark says, "My mom's been cookin' for me for 59 years. My dad always says, 'You need a hot meal every day.' [My mom] enjoys us coming in the house and our conversations."

When Mark was asked if his dad ever gives him advice in farming, he replies, "My dad says I should never have built those [three] 45,000-bushel grain bins. Dad says, 'I don't know what you are going to do with them grain bins someday. I hope you can rent them out for a hotel and hunting shacks.'"

What's success to Mark?

"Being happy with what you do and what you have."

(Editor's Note: The following profiles of North Dakota



residents were collected by author James Puppe between 2004-2018, covering 617 subjects and 113,000 miles. He has given permission for his book to be serialized in North Dakota Newspapers at no charge. (dakotaattitude.com.)