



# Poor Will's Farmland News Almanack

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## March 25 - 31

*The storms of Wintry Time will quickly pass,  
And one unbounded Spring encircle all.*

From James Thomson, The Seasons

### Phases of the Red-Winged Blackbird Moon And the Robin Chorus Moon

**March 11:** The Moon enters its final quarter.  
**March 18:** The Robin Chorus Moon is new  
**March 25:** The Moon enters its second quarter.  
**March 31:** The Moon is full.

### The Sun

Equinox occurs at 10:45 a.m. on March 20

### The Weather in the Week Ahead

The last quarter of March brings dramatic changes. Today, for the first time since October 22, there is a five percent chance of highs to reach 80 degrees.

And on the 31st, those chances double. On the 23rd, the odds for morning frost are about one in two, but on the 29th, those odds fall to just one in four.

In the warmest years of all, frost can be gone until October or November (but an average season brings 20 more dawns below the freezing mark).

Through the 28th, cold afternoons in the 30s still happen one year in ten or 15, but then on the 29th and 30th, chances of such cold drop to less than five percent for the first time since the end of October.

The 25th through the 28th are the driest and sunniest days of the week, each bringing a 60 percent chance or better of a break in the clouds.

The 29th is the day most likely to bring overcast conditions -- the sun is absent on that date 65 percent of the time, and rain falls 50 percent of the time.

The likelihood of a thunderstorm is six times greater this week than it was last week. And tornado season usually begins now, and lasts through the summer.

Ohio has an average of 12 twisters in a year, but not one has ever come to Yellow Springs.

### Natural Calendar

*Let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.*

Isaiah 35:1-2

As Early Spring comes to a close, then mourning cloak butterflies, the question marks, the tortoise shells and the cabbage butterflies come out, and when that happens, catfish are getting ready to feed in the rivers, and goldfinches are turning gold.

The predawn chorus of birds begins near 5:00 a.m. Later in the day, flickers and pileated woodpeckers call.

Winged ants will be flying then, and the first

green-bottle flies. Garter snakes will lie out sunning.

When butterflies appear, spring picks up speed, the number of new plants increasing every day even though the air is cool.

Whenever butterflies emerge, hepatica, harbinger of spring, and twinleaf are pushing out. Toad trillium and Dutchman's britches are ready to open.

The foliage of wild geranium, clover, and columbine is growing. September's zigzag goldenrod is two inches long.

Leaves of the golden Alexander are an inch across. Scarlet cup mushrooms swell in the dark.

All the leaves and fungi and butterflies are signs that the western sandhill cranes are migrating through the Rocky Mountains and the eastern cranes are moving up through Ohio.

The road to Savannah is green with leaves half emerged.

Wisteria is fragrant along the Georgia coast, and fields of rice show off their purple blossoms. In Alabama, it's time for redbud trees and pears to bloom.

On the outskirts of New Orleans, winter cress is going to seed, and huge, squat yellow thistles grow beside the roads; in the French Quarter, azaleas and camellias are wide open, and yellow day lilies and the crepe myrtles are flowering.

### In the Field and Garden

Although several mornings of frost are likely during the next 45 days, even tender sweet corn (at least a few rows) can be planted now for late June or early July harvests.

The first grass will need cutting in fewer than twenty days: tune up the lawn mower.

Put in first field corn, potatoes, sugarbeets, carrots and beets.

### Countdown to Spring

- One week until Middle Spring wildflowers blossom in the woods
- Two weeks until American toads sing their mating songs in the night.
- Three weeks until the Great Dandelion and Violet Bloom begins
- Four weeks until azaleas and snowball viburnums and dogwoods blossom
- Five weeks until iris and poppies and daisies come into flower
- Six weeks until the beginning of clover time in yards and pastures
- Seven weeks until the first orange day lily flowers
- Eight weeks until roses bloom and thistles bud
- Nine weeks until the high tree canopy begins to shade the garden
- Ten weeks until cottonwoods bloom and send their cotton through the air

### April Frostwatch

Between April 1 and June 1, up to dozen frosts occur at lower elevations along the 40th Parallel during a typical year. Of course, in some years,

frosts end with March.

Normally, however, the approximate chances of frost follow a regular and steadily declining trajectory through the end of May.

Add 10 percent to the figures below for each 100 miles north of the 40th Parallel (or for each 500 feet of elevation above 1000 feet along that parallel). Subtract 10 percent for each 100 miles south of the 40th Parallel.

April 1:	95%
April 5:	90%
April 10:	80%
April 15:	70%
April 20:	50%
April 25:	40%
April 30:	30%

### Journal

It would seem like this is what I've been waiting for all winter. The first pussy willows push out, and the first snowdrops and snow crocus emerge. Perennials are coming up here and there. The land and I know that spring is coming.

Still, I feel a reluctance to leave behind the hermitage of the cold.

Your body has adapted to three months of inclement weather; you've come to accept the clouds and the snow, the icy roads.

Whether you've realized it or not, you have been in a kind of hibernation - not as obvious a one as that of bears or groundhogs, but a real physical state of semi-dormancy nevertheless.

Responding to the shorter days and the colder temperature, human activity is typically less during December, January, and February than during other months. In males, testosterone levels ordinarily reach their lowest point in that period.

Males and females usually want more sleep as the body's melatonin starts flowing earlier in the evening.

Studies also show an increased lethargy in people, with many showing much less interest in social activities.

And there is the classic winter weight gain which reflects a decrease in physical activity and a tendency to eat more during colder times.

And just like it's hard to get up in the morning - even with the sun shining and something to look forward to - so also it can be difficult to face spring - even with the warmth and beauty you've been dreaming about for weeks.

Paradoxically, this is the time of year when deaths in humans peak; people who have survived the trials of winter suddenly decline in the face of a gentler season, and just when new life is most promising.

And those who may have made it through the bitter weather without a sign of seasonal affective disorder may experience depressions or moodiness as their hibernation is halted by pussy willows, bird song and flowers.

It's no help to realize you shouldn't be feeling this way because it's spring.

In fact, it can be depressing to recognize

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**ALMANACK**  
(Continued From Page 2)

you're feeling depressed just because it's spring!

One way to plan for this and other seasonal changes is to realize the fact that the human body and mind change with the time of year.

Many people, in fact, go through significant transformations when the seasons shift most obviously in February/March, May/June, August/September, and October/November.

Once you accept that you can be as deciduous as a maple tree, you can take measures to make sure you are ready for the periodic transitions.

Just as preparations for morning - selecting clothes ahead of time, shaving or brushing your teeth

at night instead of at dawn, toning down the alarm clock, having breakfast all set out, and making sure the house isn't too cold when you get out of bed - can make the end of sleep easier to accept, so too preparations for seasonal awakenings can soften the troubling emotions that sometimes occur at this temporal passage - and quicken the enjoyment and exhilaration that April promises.

**ALMANACK LITERATURE**  
*A Strange Animal*  
By Lois Martin, Age 13  
Greenwich, Ohio

One evening at twilight, I was pulling my younger brothers and sisters in the bicycle cart, and we were going out to close the pasture

gate.  
When we got there, we were just reaching out to the gate when we thought we saw a skunk.

The little ones quickly piled into the bike cart again, and we went home as fast as we could go.

Brother Wayne had just come home from work.

When he heard our story, he went and got the gun, and we ran back out near the gate.

Wayne said he saw it, but he wouldn't shoot until he knew exactly just what it was.

So Sister and I ran to the house and got Wayne's big blue flashlight.

My big sister came out and said she wanted to go along too and see a skunk.

On the way, we met another brother who wanted to know what was the hurry.

We told him, and he went along too.  
We could hardly talk anymore from running so hard.

When we flashed the light at the skunk, we all burst out laughing.

For what do you think we saw? Why, it was only a tree stump.

Well, Wayne shot anyway, as he knew the others were listening for the shot.

When we came in, they wanted to know if we got it. When we told them, they all started laughing.

My, what a funny skunk we had seen.

We didn't get to bed until 9:30 that evening, all because of an old tree stump!

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Follow the month of April in Bill Felker's Daytook for the Year, available from Amazon. FN

**FARMLAND NEWS – A Gift That Lasts All Year!**

**Changing Seasons, Changeless Lord**  
**Words of Inspiration**

By Pastor Aaron Bueltmann

We've entered into that time of year when the weather changes dramatically from day to day as we move from Winter to Spring.

During this time of transition, we daily find ourselves asking difficult questions:

- 1) Should I wear a winter coat or a jacket or a T-shirt?
- 2) Should I plan for rain or snow or sun?
- 3) Will the day get warmer or colder as it progresses?

Life can be the same.  
One moment life looks sunny and bright, but then we hear sad or unsettling news and dark storm clouds can loom over us.

Or maybe the changes aren't necessarily tragic, but simply annoying due to a favorite business closing or traffic routes changing due to construction.

Our lives are filled with all sorts of changes and adapting can be difficult.

In Psalm 102, one who is "afflicted" and "faint" "pours out his complaint before the LORD."

His complaint has to do with

difficult changes.

The Psalm ends with these words of trust in God, our Creator despite all the changes of life:

*Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will remain; they will all wear out like a garment.*

*You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but You are the same, and Your years have no end. The children of Your servants shall dwell secure; their offspring shall be established before You. Life is full of changes, but God is the same.*

In Hebrews 13:8, we are told, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

This is God's Word of promise to you today.

Seasons will change around us.

Our bodies change with age.

Cutting-edge technology becomes outdated so quickly.

It's easy to feel lost in the rush. Sometimes it's easy to feel like we are caught up and being carried away in an impossible barrage of changes.

We can squirm about, seeking some sort of constancy.

On our own we would be lost in the onslaught the changes of life bring—but God promises that in Christ we can dwell securely despite all the changes of life.

In all the changes all around us, God is our refuge and strength.

We can never find true security in things that change all around us like shifting sand.

We can always find our true security in Christ, our solid rock foundation through all the changing seasons of life.

Through the sunny days and gloomy days, Jesus is our firm foundation. FN



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# Good News on the Return of Sanity to Energy Policy

“Energy sanity means powering civilization with what works today, not gambling tomorrow on what might work someday.”

It’s my view that there is entirely too much consternation in the world today.

One of the goals of this column is to get folks to slow down a bit, catch their collective breath, and try to see the progress that’s been made on issues everyone is concerned about.

Energy policy is one of those areas where everyone around my area has been scratching their heads about what seem like ridiculous new regulations that make no sense at all regarding energy policy.

And things just seem to be getting worse with all the current fights about solar farms, wind turbines and Artificial Intelligence centers using up all our resources.

Let’s take a look at some genuine progress in redirecting energy policy through changing regulations at the federal level.

Then let’s look at some real world impacts in auto manufacturing.

First up is the repeal of the

## Good News In 2026

by Vern Brown

*2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding.*

This revoked the Obama-era scientific determination that greenhouse gases (like CO2) endanger public health and welfare, which served as the legal foundation for federal tailpipe emissions regulations on vehicles.

By eliminating this, the administration removed the basis for green house gas standards on cars, trucks, and engines (including many from 2012 onward).

This saves over \$1.3 trillion in regulatory costs, reduces average new vehicle prices by about \$2,400 (by avoiding mandates for costly features like start-stop systems and EV-related tech) and restores consumer choice in gas-powered vehicles.

It indirectly supports more plentiful fossil fuel energy by increasing demand without emission caps.

Next up is the *Rollback and*

*Reset of Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards.*

This reset Biden-era strict fuel economy targets (which aimed for ~50+ mpg averages and effectively pushed EVs) to much lower levels (e.g., around 34.5 mpg by 2031 with minimal annual increases).

This eliminates what was called a “backdoor EV mandate,” reduces automaker compliance costs and allows more production and sales of traditional gasoline and diesel cars and trucks.

It also makes vehicles cheaper upfront and supports energy abundance by avoiding forced shifts away from oil-based fuels.

Also we have elimination of *Biden-Era Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Vehicles* and all sizes of trucks.

This rescinded post-2027 greenhouse gas and criteria pollutant rules for cars, trucks, and heavy-duty vehicles.

By removing these, automakers face fewer design mandates (e.g., no forced adoption of expensive emissions controls or electrification), lowering production costs for affordable gas-powered cars and trucks.

It also supports plentiful energy by sustaining higher fossil fuel consumption in transportation without regulatory penalties.

Next up is the revocation of California’s *Waiver for Stricter Vehicle Emissions Standards.*

The EPA revoked waivers allowing California to enforce tougher tailpipe rules, including de facto EV sales mandates, which included phasing out new gas car sales by 2035 in some cases.

Federal actions also blocked related heavy-duty inspection programs and preempted state-level bans.

This prevents a patchwork of stricter rules that raise na-

tional vehicle costs and limits EV-forcing policies, making traditional vehicles cheaper and more available while encouraging greater oil and gas use for more abundant, affordable energy.

Finally, there has been a broader deregulation of power plant and fossil fuel regulations.

These rollbacks emphasize reducing regulatory compliance costs for automakers and prioritizing fossil fuels for greater supply and lower energy prices.

So with all this pressure off the automakers and renewed emphasis on fossil fuels, how have they reacted and adjusted their plans regarding Electronic Vehicle production?

*Ford* ended production of the current-generation F-150 Lightning pure EV pickup and canceled the next-generation full-size electric pickup, Project T3.

Ford shifted to extended-range EVs with gas generators for future large trucks and pivoted investments toward smaller, more affordable EVs and hybrids.

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# Farewell To Winter

## The Empty Nest

by Becky Corwin-Adams

As I am writing this column, it is the last official day of winter and it feels like a celebration is in order.

This winter has been very long and brutal.

After living in Minot, North Dakota for four winters, I feel like I am able to withstand lots of snow and cold weather.

In fact, I rarely wear a winter coat.

I prefer to dress in layers and sometimes I even venture outside barefooted when there is snow on the ground.

However, the winter of 2025-2026 has been a difficult one for me

I'm not 18 anymore like I was when I lived in North Dakota.

In fact, this winter really took a toll on me and caused me to rethink my decision to move to the country seven years ago.

I knew it was going to be a rough winter when the snow started early in November and there was only a week or so of good weather at the end of December.

Early in January, my dogs all visited the groomer and later that day, the rain started and soon turned to snow.

The snow continued almost daily for the next two months.

Since my dogs hair is short, they had to wear sweaters... they don't wear sweaters unless it is really cold.

This winter, they wore their sweaters for an entire month.

They are not fans of sweaters and I'm not a fan of having extra laundry to do with all those dog sweaters.

We had just over 30 inches of snow this winter.

Since we are surrounded by fields and there is nothing

to block the wind, there were several times, the high winds caused three-foot-tall snow drifts in our driveway

We hired Ben, a family friend, to clean our driveway and it seemed like he was at our house every day or two.

I cancelled two of my vet appointments due to the fact that I couldn't get my car out of the garage because of the drifts.

Eventually, the dogs did visit the vet to get their vaccines.

March came in like a lamb and we had a stretch of nice weather.

The dogs were able to get their walks and we humans were able to complete some projects outside that we had planned to do when spring arrived.

Once again, it was time for the dogs to visit the groomer and guess what, the rain started.

We received four inches of rain in one night and the intersection near our house was flooded... it happens every year.

Our road was closed and we had to take a detour to get the dogs to their grooming appointment the next morning.

Unfortunately, we had to drive through water that was across the road in about a dozen places on the way there.

Finally we arrived at the groomer's shop and thankfully we were only a few minutes late.

On the way home I decided it would've been a

better idea to drive the Jeep that day since it sets higher up than my car.

However, not one of our dogs has ever been in our Jeep.

Looking back, I think we should have broken our "No dogs in the Jeep" rule.

I'm always surprised to observe that so many people drive past a road closed sign and drive through high water.

Of course, there were a few drivers that did have enough common sense to turn around.

Even with four road closed signs, most people drove right up to the intersection before deciding to turn around.

The day before the big rain, some men were installing fiber optics in our area.

They backed two big trucks pulling trailers into our gravel driveway by the field, tearing up our driveway and leaving deep ruts in our field.

The sheriff was called and after much discussion, the workers were warned to stay off our property.

As soon as the sheriff departed, another one of the men backed his truck into our other gravel driveway by our woods, also leaving

ing ruts and tearing up our gravel.

Two days after the big rain, the wind started to pick up.

We are not used to 60 mph wind gusts.

That morning we decided to go to the store to purchase some metal posts and chain to block access to our two gravel driveways since the fiber optics people were not done working along our road.

Just keeping the Jeep on the road that morning was a challenge!

We arrived back home at lunchtime and I went outside with the dogs and noticed that our fence was swaying back and forth a lot.

A year ago in March, one side of our fence blew

down when we had a tornado warning and straight-line winds... I didn't want a repeat of that.

We used the newly purchased metal posts to prop up the fence.

Later we bought some two by fours to keep the fence in place.

The high winds continued for almost three days.

Thankfully our fence survived and now one of our spring projects is to reinforce the fence posts.

After seven winters of country living, I have seriously asked myself if moving to the country was really a good idea.

**Becky Corwin- Adams is originally from Defiance and now lives on a 31-acre farm in Williams County.**

**She and her husband have two sons, four grandchildren, two great grandchildren, five cocker spaniels, and two corgis.** FN

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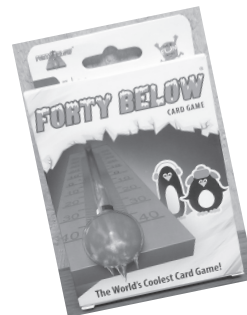
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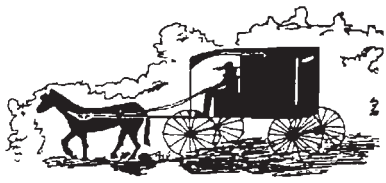


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# The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



## A New Day

Good morning!  
Rise and shine with the Yoders!

It's Saturday morning, so don't worry, you'll get to sleep in.

By 8:30 or so we'll have breakfast.

Since there is no rush on the last day of the week, we'll have some children show up at the table in their pajamas; others who were feeling frisky will have already had most of their Saturday cleaning done.

Saturday morning seems to deserve a square breakfast of one sort or another.

Julia likes doing pancakes with some sort of sausage or fried potatoes to go with it; frankly, I can't say I jump at the chance of making a deluxe breakfast.

Not for a moment will we have pity parties here, but somehow since Hubby went to heaven I've lost my zip to prepare good breakfasts.

How he loved when I'd make breakfast sandwiches for him.

Ah, I can still feel his gratitude when I met him in the chestnut grove soon after daybreak after he'd been going for four hours preparing the field for the chestnut trees to be put in the ground that day.

It wasn't so much in what he said, as in how I could tell how he appreciated it.

The sandwiches weren't always the same — it was something like an egg with an ample amount of cheese between two slices of toast with mayo, barbecue sauce, and onions.

Usually there was bacon and pepperoni if I had some on hand.

Yes, I miss those days a lot, but there is One who walks with me and cares for me more deeply than can be told.

Anyway, at the breakfast table I'll read a story to them from the book "Worshipful Families," by Howard Bean.

It is loaded with not only thought-provoking inspiration, but also a wealth of

interesting information on nature, the universe, storm systems, and the like.

After prayer of worship to God and a song, I'll tell the children what I'll be expecting from each of them.

If you happen to be here, you may even get to sweep the front porch or help fold towels!

Today, besides helping with cleaning, the children helped me make a canner full of blackberry pie filling from blackberries we had tucked in the freezer last summer.

Putting that on hold, we all headed for Grandma Yoder's house where we gave her a little helping hand.

There were children running here and there, shaking rugs and doing little odd jobs while Julia and I swept and mopped through her house.

Next we all headed for the store to check on their building project, where they are adding an addition that will serve as a warehouse, an extension on the bakery, and so on. Julia and I got to thinking about lunch.

What would we have for lunch when we got home?

The kitchen was full of jars and blackberry juice and such.

Would we eat outdoors?

It was Julia who came up with the idea: "Hey Mom, remember your mom said she would buy each of us a sandwich from the store as a thanks for something we did for them?!"

It clicked.

I gathered my boys, who had telltale marks that only boys will have after being around piles of dirt and building.

It was what it was; we headed for the store where they stood in line as Miss Leah made a sandwich custom-ordered to suit each of their tastes.

Julia and I decided to share one, as they are simply huge — two slices of homemade bread with ample amounts of ham and cheeses and all sorts of toppings.

Once I had the boys

## Recipe Of The Week

# Easter Cake Mix Cookie Bars

- 1 yellow cake mix
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup pastel Easter M&M candies

Line a 9x13-inch baking pan with parchment paper or lightly grease it so the bars don't stick.

In a large bowl, combine the cake mix, eggs and vegetable oil; stir until thick cookie dough forms.

Fold in the chocolate chips and about 3/4 cup of the M&M candies.

Mix until they are evenly distributed throughout the dough.

Transfer the dough into the prepared baking pan.

Use a spatula or clean hands press the dough evenly into the pan.

Sprinkle the remaining M&M candies across the top and gently press them into the dough.

Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until the edges are lightly golden and center is set.

Allow the bars to completely cool in the pan.

Once cooled, lift them out and cut into squares or rectangles.

Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 3 days or can refrigerate for up to a week to keep the bars soft and chewy.

This Recipe of the Week is from Mary Schroll, McComb, Ohio

all ushered out the door, I grabbed the broom to sweep up after them.

This stage is only for today; yes, it is good.

We all headed out back to the picnic table where we sang "God You're Great" and enjoyed the moment in the sunshine.

When everyone had eaten their fill, I told the boys they could all walk across the top of the huge dirt mound one more time en route to the driveway.

The walk home was short but refreshing.

On our return to the kitchen, everything was waiting where we left it.

We cooked, stirred, tasted, then best of all, ladled into jars.

(As I write, I'm listening to the gentle boil of the last canner that I'm hot water bathing.)

We got 21 quarts, which I was well pleased with.

The filling is something we enjoy in pies, cobblers, yogurt, or wherever.

By mid-afternoon Julia and I joined the rest of the children outside.

The children played with the latest and greatest addition to the farm — Jesse's adorable miniature rabbits.

He is excited about get-

ting \$5 apiece for them.

I marveled over how God answered my request at the breakfast table when I had asked Him for sunshine once we were ready to do our outdoor jobs.

The sun shone gently, motivating us as Austin and I worked on his recycling project and the girls and I planted flowers.

Yes, it's true — after years of not having sufficient energy to put into house plants, I am at last growing into it.

Yea!

It makes me excited to keep caring for them and add more to my collection.

By supertime it was still pleasant outdoors, so we gathered on the porch to eat our evening meal together.

Thanks to Julia for blending up a mocha smoothie for us.

And now as I write, I hear the boys playing volleyball in the front yard and am quite aware that with it being Saturday evening there's a bit of scrubbing that will take place between now and bedtime — not to mention the lad who took a bath, then, joining the rest in the great outdoors, was soon walking through a mud puddle with mud squishing between his toes.

Yes, give me today; I'll take it.

On the subject of sandwiches, try my aunt's Chicken Bacon Ranch Sliders!

## Chicken Bacon Ranch Sliders

- 12 slider buns
- 1-lb chicken tenders, fried or grilled
- 8 slices bacon
- Colby cheese
- 1/3 cup BBQ sauce

Spread tops and bottoms with BBQ sauce.

Layer cheese, chicken, bacon, and then more cheese.

Place in baking pan.

Top with the following sauce:

- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon fresh chives
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder;
- 2 tablespoons Parmesan cheese

Cover lightly with foil and bake at 350° until cheese melts.

Readers may write Gloria with culinary or cultural questions at: Gloria Yoder, 10510 E. 350th Avenue, Flat Rock, IL 62427.

FN

# Blast From The Past...

## Farmland News 1964

Since we are reaching our golden years and had difficulty reading the Blast from the Past last week, we are reprinting the articles this week.

Welcome to our Blast from the Past... a new column featuring a glimpse of vintage Farmland News articles. Watch for more "Blast From the Past" features in upcoming issues.



A COAT OF WAX on the chrome of kitchen chairs will prevent rust from forming.

\* \* \* \*

RUBBER BANDS wrapped around clothes-hanger ends will keep clothes from slipping off hangers.

\* \* \* \*

LET YOUR SMALL fry use nail-polish brushes for painting. They can be cleaned easily with nail-polish remover.

\* \* \* \*

WHEN TYPING A package for mailing, wet the cord. It will tighten as it dries, holding the package more securely.

\* \* \* \*

DON'T BEAT EGG whites in an aluminum mixing bowl. If you do, the whites may acquire a grayish cast.

\* \* \* \*

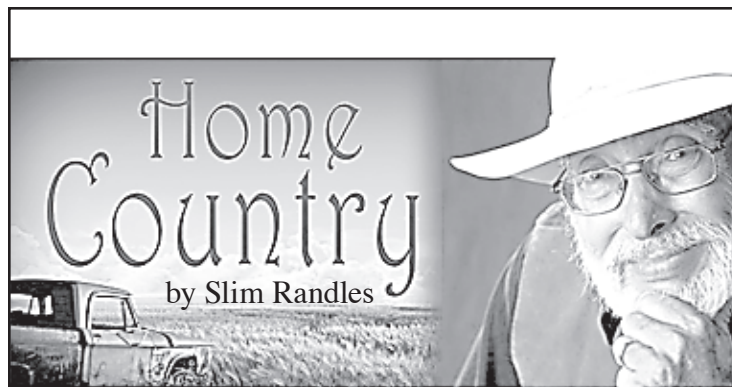
GIVE FIBER-GLASS curtains new body with wet starch. After washing, immerse curtains in an instant-starch solution and let them drip dry.

\* \* \* \*

SLIP A SQUARE of aluminum foil under a fruit pie as it bakes to catch juices which sizzle over - saves on oven cleaning.

\* \* \* \*

PLANTS AND IVY generally thrive in the bathroom. Put a couple of hanging pots on the wall for something different and attractive.



Spring mornings are a lot like Christmas.

Each day we get up and go out into the yard or walk along the creek or visit the horses in the pasture.

And each day, each morning, we find something new the sun has brought us.

Pinfeather leaves of an unbelievable green now start showing on cottonwoods that have stood like stark ghostly frames all through the cold winter.

Hopeful blades of grass peek through clumps of brown left over from last summer's verdant pasture. Everywhere we look there is something new and different.

A lot of this Christmas-in-spring is kept just among us, because we might be accused of being ... well ...

poetic if we told people why we were really carrying that coffee cup out into the yard.

So we say lame things like "I think I'll get some of that fresh air this morning."

What we really mean, of course, is "I want to see if Richardson's bay mare has had that foal yet."

Some of us have worked very hard last fall and winter to prepare for this spring.

By grafting. OK, we have a Granny Smith apple tree.

Let's see if we can't get a branch of Rome Beauties or Jonagolds to grow on it, too.

And we understand completely that where we live no olive tree can survive the winter.

That isn't supposed to stop us from trying, is it?

Nature pitches us a boat-



### "Chickens For Outer Space"

Meanwhile, back at Cape Kennedy, scientists are reported to be studying the possibility of sending eggs into orbit to see whether chickens embryos will develop normally in space. The chicken embryo is considered well suited for this test since it has been studied thoroughly on earth, has a 21 day development period suited to short space missions, and because it is known that gravity has some effect on it, since eggs must be turned in order to hatch.

Just one small problem that must be overcome. How to transport the eggs in space, so that they will survive the stresses of acceleration, re-entry and landing without scrambling, seems to be the main problem.

### GOOD NEWS (Continued From Page 4)

Ford took a \$20 billion write down on EV operations.

General Motors discontinued the Chevrolet BrightDrop electric commercial vans and scaled back broader EV investments, switching planned EV factories to gas trucks and SUVs.

GM will also end production of the Chevrolet Bolt EV by 2027 and prioritize combustion vehicles.

GM took a \$7.6 billion write down.

Stellantis (includes Dodge, Ram, Jeep, Chrysler) canceled the Ram 1500 REV all-electric pickup high-performance EVs like the Dodge Charger Daytona SRT Banshee (potential 1000+ hp model).

They also dropped the entry-level Dodge Charger Daytona R/T EV trim and eliminated plug-in hybrid models for Jeep and Chrysler in 2026.

load of challenges each day that we're alive.

This plant needs more water than falls naturally here.

That tree can't take the temperatures we get.

This little tree needs soil with more organic matter in it.

And those challenges are the stuff winter dreams are made of.

We do the best we can to cure the lack, the freeze, the drought, and then we wait for April.

We wait impatiently until we can come out of the house some morning and check the grafts on the apple tree and see tiny green leaves coming on the grafted branch.

We search the bare ground where we planted that new kind of seed that won't grow here - to see if it'll grow here.

It is a continuing feast of green, a triumph of anticipation. An April morning can make us want to sing.

Brought to you by "Dogsled, A True Tale of the North," now available online as well as in hard-cover.

They will now focus on hybrids and gas vehicles.

Stellantis unfortunately recorded the largest single write-down at \$27 billion.

All the automakers based outside of the USA are following the exact same patterns.

These financial losses are impressive in their size.

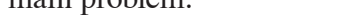
But the losses are concrete evidence we are finally focusing on what works today and not gambling our future on something that might work someday.

In the final analysis, Money talks and BS walks.

Vern Brown is a 6th generation farmer from Jonesville, Michigan.

He resides on the family farm which was homesteaded by his family in 1835.

His current projects are centered around export of live breeding cattle to Africa and Eastern Europe. FN





**LaVern & Virginia are motoring along in their 1909 Renault Ax on a 1 & 2 Cylinder Tour.**

**GRIZZ'S**

(Continued From Page 1)

under blankets in the open rumble seat while our parents drove around enjoying their "new" car.

Like many collectors, you can't stop with just one... next was the 1929 Hupmobile sedan from Massachusetts in about 1976-77.

**Grizz's Garage**

Around this time, my dad had grown a big bushy beard for the U.S. Bicentennial.

He looked a lot like Grizzly Adams from the TV show and thus his new nickname with the car group became "Grizz".

That beard became part of Dad's legacy and my husband, Dave and I adopted the name and logo for our vintage collection.

My parents gradually went on to collect cars which ranged in years from 1908 to 1990.

Around 2019, the time came when the cars were in need of a new caretaker, so

Dave & I stepped up for the task.

We built a climate-controlled building and moved all of my parent's cars there, the first time all of my parent's cars were under one roof!

Dave worked tirelessly to get all 10 running and driving again.

Thus was the beginning of our collection, "Grizz's Garage".

**Favorites**

My parent's car collection included:

- 1908 Maxwell
- 1908 Renault Ax
- 1909 Renault Ax
- 1910 Overland
- 1911 Cadillac
- 1912 Ford Model T
- 1926 Hupmobile
- 1929 Hupmobile
- 1955 Cadillac
- 1965 Cadillac
- 1990 Cadillac

Believe it or not, my parents had a liking for those big land yacht Cadillacs!

Their favorite touring car started with the 1929

and then the 1955 Cadillac, whose nickname was "Dolly" and was quite the looker, you can think on that nickname and figure it out!

Eventually the 1909 Renault became their favorite.

**Hupmobile**

They cherished that little car and loved touring with the 1 & 2 group, which is a tour focused on 1 or 2 cylinder cars.

Yes, the really old and somewhat slow cars – taking in the world around you at 25-30 mph is glorious!

You enjoy life slower, take in the sights more clearly, and often, put big smiles on people's faces!

Mom also tells me that the 1965 Cadillac was a favorite, a beast with a big 429 V8!

She will fondly tell the story of when she drag-



**Kelly's bucket list truck, a 1982 GMC C-20, similar to the truck her dad, LaVern, had back in the 80s. Glad to have found this truck that remains in excellent condition. Just need a plenty of fuel to feed that Holley 4 barrel, good thing it has dual tanks!**

raced some "guy" at a red light and dad urged her on!

**The Legacy**

I have greatly enjoyed sharing my parent's cars with them for over 50 years, where we drive the cars with other like-minded car folks, visiting various destinations across the country.

Touring was always my parent's favorite way to enjoy the cars.

Our family was never the "show" type or participated in parades... driving is the best way to enjoy these vintage classics.

Wait, let's do a U-turn back to the title of this story, Grizz's Garage and how it all started.

I met Dave, from Iowa, in late 2014 while playing an on-line game called World of Warcraft – yes, we are both "gamers".

We developed a strong friendship which evolved

into a lasting marriage going on 11 years now.

Dave and I both love vintage cars, thankfully he enjoys working on them.

Not long after we met, we started our own collection, with our first purchase, a 1910 Bianchi, one of only 3-5 known to exist in the world, however, rarity doesn't mean insane prices.

We enjoyed the car for a time and then traded it to a collector who focused on one-of-a-kind cars... in return we received our 1935 Cadillac, filling the last decade in our collection with models ranging from 1900-2000.

We added a 1948 Diamond T truck model 201 from Arkansas (currently being redone as a resto-mod), then from Colorado a 1942 Diamond T truck model 306, along with an

(Continued on Page 9)

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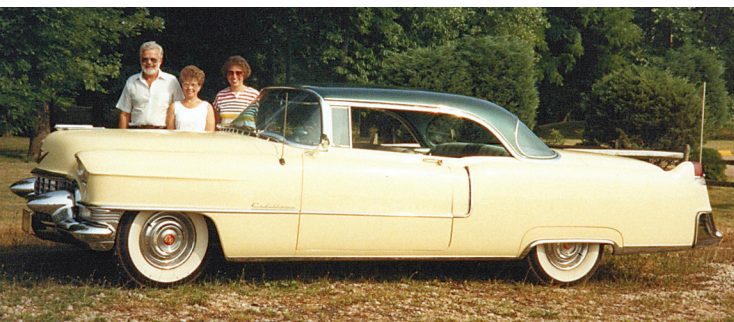
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LaVern & Virginia along with their friend Patti posing with "Dolly" their 1955 Cadillac Coupe Deville. This car is all original and drives amazingly well!



Our 1908 Renault Ax "Yellow" posing under a vintage gas station located on the Ashtabula County Antique Engine Club grounds. This photo was featured on the cover of the VMCCA publication, The Bulb Horn.



Our 1911 Cadillac Model 30 that my parents tell me they purchased from the oldest Cadillac dealer in the country.



1929 Hupmobile Model M Sedan "Goldie", LaVern & Virginia are at the Greenfield Village Old Car Festival along with their granddaughter Rachel.

**GRIZZ'S**  
(Continued From Page 8)

original 1948 Diamond T truck model 509 (sold).  
You can see a trend here that while growing up I was a bit of a truck gal, much to my parent's disappointment at times!  
Oh, the smiles and laughs on that topic!  
We later purchased a 1949 MG TC which is one of Dave's favorite cars!  
We snagged a 1975 Corvette locally in Findlay and then a 1940 Chevy Coupe hotrod which was also on Dave's bucket list.

A recent acquired classic is my bucket list truck, a 1982 GMC C 20, which reminds me of a 1982 Chevy diesel truck my dad had when I was 16.  
I loved that truck of dad's, begging to drive it.  
I would detail it inside and out every time for the privilege of cruising around town.

Eventually, that truck was sold despite my pleading to buy it myself.  
"Girls don't need trucks"

(Continued on Page 10)

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1909 Renault Ax: This is my favorite picture of my parents, LaVern & Virginia Wiemken on one of the many 1 & 2 Cylinder Tours we went on together. I toured with them for 18 years on this particular tour type.



LaVern is troubleshooting "Red" the 1909 Renault Ax. Sometimes on tour the cars breakdown and we end up hauling them back on a trailer, which we did here. The vast majority of the time, the car is fixed and it's back on the road the same day or next day!



LaVern & Virginia posing with "Red" their 1909 Renault Ax following a "TP attack".



Dave & I with our 1942 Diamond T Model 306 at the Wood County Historical Museum where it served as a mascot for the 2021 Wood SWCD's Ag-Venture in Wood County.



Dave can always find something to check out on the cars. Notice the vintage cars and classic cars stacked up along the wall.

### GRIZZ'S

(Continued From Page 9)

I was told – Ha, look how that turned out!

The '82 GMC truck we added to our collection was found hanging out in a pole barn in eastern Ohio and we happily purchased it and brought it home.

It's got the big block 454 with a Holley four barrel and let me tell you, not only does it REALLY GO, it REALLY, REALLY drinks fuel fast – Good thing it has dual tanks!

We currently own 5 trucks that are vintage and daily

drivers.

### On The Road

Dave and I enjoy driving and touring with our cars.

Our favorite touring is the 1908 Renault traveling with the same group that my parents did on those 1 & 2 Cylinder tours.

We also enjoy driving our other cars to various areas and states across the mid-west, one of our favorite tours was driving the Model T around Maine.

We love to host tours as well as an annual gathering in August to honor my dad's memory, the Grizz's Garage

Memorial Tour, endorsed by the Defiance Chapter of the Vintage Motor Car Club of America (VMCCA).

Our first memorial tour was in August 2021 and those who attended asked

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that we make it an annual event, this year will be our 6th annual event.

We are so glad to honor my dad and continue my parent's legacy in the vintage car world.

### The Future

As I sit back and reminisce, I have bitter-sweet tears...my dad passed away in 2021 and mom survives today sharing her memories of their cars.

I'm grateful that Dave and I were able to take on their collection, care for it, and grow it into our collection that now stands at 18 vintage cars.

Eventually we plan to part with some of the collection.

Dave and I strongly feel that the cars should and need to be driven and enjoyed.

We can only drive and maintain so many and want them to be enjoyed by others.

This makes for tough decisions ahead on which ones to pass on and which ones to hold on to.

Time marches on but memories last forever.

Thanks mom & dad for sharing the hobby and giving me the "bug" to carry it on.

Thank you, Dave, for helping me keep the cars going and supporting me along the way...Happy motoring!

*Farmland News would like to thank Kelly and Dave for sharing their story.*

**Kelly (Wiemken) Cope-land** was raised on a farm in Defiance County, Ohio and now resides with her husband Dave near Findlay, Ohio. She has been a life long vintage car enthusiast who has done free-lance work for several Vintage Car Club publications. FN

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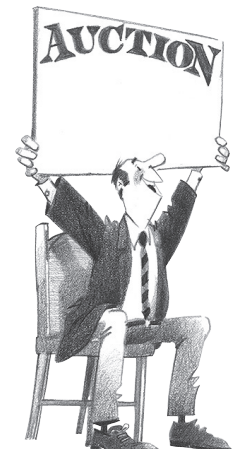
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