

Poor Will's Farmland News Almanack

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June 3 - 9

Poor Will's Almanack For the Second Week of Early summer

*When June is here – what art have we to sing
The whiteness of the lilies midst the green
On noon-tranced lawns? Or flash of roses seen
Like redbirds' wings? Or earliest ripening
Prince-Harvest apples, where the cloyed bees cling
Round winey juices oozing down between
The peckings of the robin, while we lean
In under-grasses, lost in marveling?*

James Whitcomb Riley

The Phases of the Moon

May 31: The Fledgling Moon is Full.

June 8: The Moon enters its final quarter.

June 14: The Firefly Moon is new.

June 21: The Moon enters its second quarter.

June 29: The Moon is full.

Sun Time

The sun reaches a declination of 21 degrees 54 minutes by the end of May, a little more than 90 percent of the way to solstice.

The Weather of the Week Ahead

The first week of June brings an end to the likelihood of highs in the 50s and 60s at average elevations along the 40th Parallel.

Chances of that kind of cold were around 30 percent last week; this week chances of 60s fall to only 15 percent, and 50s are rare.

Temperatures for the days of this week rise into the 70s on 35 percent of the afternoons, into the 80s on 40 percent, and into the 90s on ten percent.

After June 6th, the likelihood of highs reaching into the 90s jumps to 20 percent, and reaches 35 percent by the middle of the month. About 15 percent of the nights bring temperatures in the 30s or 40s.

Rainfall is usually lighter this week than last, and the sun shines more. Still, showers fall about 40 percent of the time each day, except for the 4th, which has just a 30 percent chance, and the 6th, one of the driest days of June in the Lower Midwest, which has just a 15 percent chance of precipitation.

The June Weather Outlook

Normal temperatures rise at the rate of one degree every four days this month throughout most of the United States. In the Lower Midwest, average highs move from the upper 70s on the first of June to the middle 80s by the beginning of July. Lows climb from the mid 50s into the lower 60s.

The average temperature for the entire month is usually in the low 70s, up about ten degrees from May. The coldest June recorded in Yellow Springs, Ohio, was 65.8 degrees in 1928. The warmest was 78.4 degrees in 1934.

A typical June temperature distribution looks like the following in much of the state: four days in the 90s, twelve days in the 80s, twelve days in the 70s, two days in the 60s, with a slight chance of one of those cooler days to be in the upper 50s.

Natural Calendar

Not long after peonies and the exotic flowers of the yellow poplar end their seasons, just past the end of poppies, the last leaves of the canopy cover the land.

When the high foliage is complete, then the wild multiflora roses and the domestic tea roses are in full bloom, the last Osage and black walnut flowers fall, clustered snakeroot loses its pollen in the shade, and parsnips, goat's beard and sweet clovers take over the roadsides.

Rare swamp valerian blossoms by the water, and common timothy pushes up from its sheaths in alleyways.

Delicate Miami mist, pink yarrow, yellow moneywort, silver lamb's ear and the rough Canadian thistle bloom. Wild onions and domestic garlic get their seed bulbs. Poison ivy and tiger lilies and catalpas are budding.

Daisies, golden Alexander, groundsel, sweet rocket and common fleabane still hold in the pastures, but garlic mustard and ragwort are gone. The bright violet heads of chives decay. Petals of mock orange, honeysuckle, scarlet pyrethrum, blue lupine and Dutch iris have dropped to the garden floor.

The columbines come apart as astilbe reddens. Nettles and grasses tangle with catchweed. July's wild petunia foliage is a foot tall. Giant yucca plants send up their firm stalks not only in Kentucky but also deep in the Caribbean.

Estimated June Pollen Count

On a scale of 0 - 700 grains per cubic meter: Pollen from flowering trees is quite low except in northernmost states. Most of the pollen in the air this month comes from grasses.

June 1: 80	June 5: 60
June 10: 40	June 15: 35
June 25: 30	June 30: 25

Estimated June Mold Count

On a scale of 0 -7,000 grains per cubic meter:

June 1: 2600	June 5: 3000
June 10: 2500	June 15: 2600
June 20: 3200	June 25: 3700
June 30: 3000	

In the Field and Garden

When goslings leave the nest, mulberry season peaks, and when you see the first monarch butterfly, watch for young coyotes to come after your chickens and new lambs and kids.

And when May apples have fruit the size of a cherry and honeysuckle flowers have all come down, look for cucumber beetles to reach the economic threshold on the farm and in the garden.

When fireflies fly at night, chinch bugs hatch in the lawn, and powdery mildew becomes a

problem in the garden phlox.

When yucca plants send up their stalks, young grackles leave their nests, and nettles have grown up to your chest. Then, Japanese beetles start to attack roses and ferns. Azalea bark scale eggs hatch, too!

Check for foot rot in your livestock, especially if the weather has been rainy and the pastures and runs are muddy.

Don't let your rams and bucks get overheated (which can affect their sperm count) when the temperature rises into the 80s and 90s. Be sure shade is available.

Exceptionally high temperatures may inhibit your bees' ability to make honey. Heat can also contribute to temporary sterility in male livestock.

A three-week cycle of deworming, combined with every-three-week pasture rotation, could be effective in eliminating worms early in the summer.

Journal:

Onslaught of the Pooping Grackles

I have a small koi pond with a waterfall in my yard. The fish are beautiful in their reds and golds and silvers and have become my pets. I clean out the pond filter every few weeks to keep algae under control. On May 29, I did the cleaning but was surprised to find that the waterfall was producing white foam as though someone had come by during the night and threw in some dish soap, and the fish were racing around the pond. Something was not right.

In a few days, the water cleared up, but I didn't figure out what happened until I chanced upon my daybook entry of May 24, 2010. Rick had written to tell me that the grackles around his home were placing the fecal sacks of the newly hatched fledglings into his birdbath and pond.

"What started out last year as an occasional fecal sack in our birdbath (which can no longer be called such) has mushroomed into an onslaught, with there often being more than fifty popcorn-sized sacks by day's end.

Moreover, these grackles have lined the rocks around our pond with white sacks, and sometimes don't even bother to land, bombarding the pond on their way over.

One result, we surmise, is that our pond is getting too much nitrogen, why water from the waterfalls is frothing white. Something we haven't seen before."

By June 1, the crisis had passed: "Wouldn't you know," wrote Rick, "that right about the time I was about to give up, the problem solved itself.

The babies, wherever they were, all must have fledged at once because the onslaught abruptly stopped."

In my case this year, the waterfall stopped foaming after two days. Then came a four-day, Pentecost-like burst of grackles and their young feeding and begging and clucking and scrawling and whining and grackling and speaking in tongues that lasted from morning until night.

(Continued on Page 3)

POOR WILL'S

(Continued From Page 2)

Then all was quiet and the pond stayed clear and the fish calmed down and were happy.

The grackles perform the celebratory ritual of bringing out their fledglings all together in a feeding frenzy in my yard every year. Up until this May they spared my pond. Maybe they finally left Rick alone.

ALMANACK LITERATURE***Papa's Horse***

by Naomi Bliss,

Switzerland County, Indiana

When Papa had a grocery store in Scottsburg, Indiana, he often enjoyed going to Churchill Downs for the races and to see old friends.

One day Papa bought a racehorse in a Claiming Race for a few hundred dollars. He brought the horse

the 30 miles to our home by himself. How he ever made it, I don't know; Papa wasn't much of a rider.

When he and the horse arrived at our home, he called to Mama: "Ida, Ida, I've a surprise!"

We all gathered, and we all were surprised! Mama looked at poor tired Papa and at the horse. Finally she asked: "Henry, what will you do with a horse?"

Papa excitedly said: "I'll deliver groceries!" And that he did. He bought a small flat wagon and hitched the racehorse to it. The horse stood still for being harnessed and hitched to the wagon, and then he just stood and stood.

Papa tried every thing to get the horse started. But still the horse stood. With the grocery orders in the wagon, Papa needed to get moving. Finally he went into the store and returned with a tall wooden stool. He called to Mama to come help him. She came and held the horse while Papa climbed up on the stool and

straddled the horse. He grabbed the reins; Mama stood back, and away went Papa and the horse.

Our town was little more than a crossroads, and on that day every soul was out and enjoying Papa on the racehorse. And they must have been quite a sight!

Papa in his black hat and three-piece blue serge suit, his feet and legs flapping because he was riding bare back, the horse shaking his head and running.

Well, Papa did take the groceries to where they belonged. The horse did stop, but Papa couldn't get off the horse, so he called his customer's name until he came out to the wagon, and Papa told him to look in the wagon for his groceries.

It took Papa and the horse almost all day to deliver a few groceries, but at last Papa returned to the store. Mama was waiting with the stool, but she first tied the horse to a tree and then she helped Papa down from the horse. Help came

running out, and Papa was almost carried into our home in the back of the store.

I have never known what became of the horse, but Papa couldn't walk for more than a week.

Mama cleaned and pressed Papa's suit, and brushed his black hat. Finally he appeared in public, but he never allowed anyone to mention his horse.

If they did, he would fly into a fit of anger, his face red, and he would swear dreadful curses.

I still remember: "Hell's fire and brimstone," he would shout as he stomped up the stairs! Awful!

Follow the summer with Bill Felker's *A Daybook for June in Yellow Springs, Ohio*. These daybooks contain all the nature notes used to create Poor Will's Almanack. Order yours from Amazon. FN

Why Bother? Words of Inspiration By Pastor Jeff Corder

"While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler, "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?" Mark 5:35

Several years ago, a teacher working in a children's hospital was asked to visit a boy in the burn unit.

His regular teacher had called with the request, "We're studying nouns and adverbs.

I'd be grateful if you could help him with his homework so he doesn't fall too far behind the others."

The teacher went, but wasn't prepared for what she found.

The boy was bandaged and in pain.

She said, as softly as she could, "I'm the hospital teacher.

Your teacher at school asked me to help you with your nouns and adverbs."

The next day a nurse asked, "What did you do to that boy?"

Before the teacher could offer her apologies for being unprepared, the nurse continued, "We were worried about him.

But ever since you visited, his entire outlook has changed.

For the first time he's actually fighting - He's responding - He's

got a new lease on life."

Now you might be wondering, what happened?

The boy had given up.

He had felt hopeless and helpless.

But then he realized, "The school wouldn't waste its time and concern by sending a teacher to work on nouns and adverbs with a dying boy, would they?"

Maybe you are like that boy and you have given up on something.

Perhaps your moment of misery came with the death of someone you are close to, or the death of a dream, or a hope or a marriage.

Maybe a loved one deceived you or a friend deserted you.

Hopelessness and helplessness can come in any number of ways.

But let me ask you a question, did you go to God with your concern, or did you say: "Why bother God?

What can He do?

This is my problem."

I think there are only two reasons why you would feel that way.

The first is you believe the situation is beyond God's help and you have concluded that your hurt is untouchable.

The second reason you might not want to "bother" God with your problem is because you think that you are too small for Him to care about.

You think since everyone seems to have forgotten about you that God has too.

If you hold either of these opin-

ions, then you are wrong.

God does care and He can help you, no matter what your problem is.

Just think about it for a minute, if God was willing to send His Son to die for you, in order to save you, then why wouldn't He help you with whatever you are facing now?

Why would He bother to send His Son to save you if He didn't intend to help you?

You should never be afraid to ask for God's help.

So why bother God?

Because He is the only One who can truly heal your hurts, repair your relationship and bring life out of death.

And what's more, to Jesus, it's no bother.

In fact, it's the reason He came.

God's greatest desire is to heal us from the curse of sin, to take our burdens from us and to give us peace.

If your doubts and your fears tell you not to bother Jesus with your problems, then remember what Jesus said to Jairus after the men said, "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

Don't listen to those negative thoughts, instead listen to what Jesus says, "Don't be afraid; just believe!" FN



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Blast From The Past...

Farm Machinery Dealers in 1975

How many do you remember? Some have disappeared, some have changed hands, some are still going strong:

- Holgate Implement Dealer - Holgate, Ohio
- Spangler Implement Sales - Bryan, Ohio
- Harry Von Deylen Co. - Napoleon, Ohio
- Geo. Wannemacher Co. - Ottoville, Ohio
- Holtkamp-Fortman Co. - Kalida, Ohio
- Kahrs Tractor Sales - Wauseon, Ohio
- Leipsic Farm Supply - Leipsic, Ohio
- Schumacher-Maag Co. - Ottawa, Ohio
- The L.S. Dunbar Co. - Napoleon, Ohio
- Fisher Implement - Edgerton, Ohio
- Bichan Chevrolet - Hamler, Ohio
- Getz & Anderson, Inc. - Bowling Green, Ohio
- Nienberg's - Glandorf, Ohio
- Meineke's Sales & Service - Napoleon, Ohio
- Metzger Bros., Inc. - Ft. Jennings, Ohio
- Howell Implement - Continental, Ohio
- Hoefel & Meyer Equipment - Napoleon, Ohio
- Rich Tractor Sales - Archbold, Ohio
- Mitchell Farm Equipment - Liberty Center, Ohio
- Carr Tractor Sales - Paulding, Ohio
- Rettig Equipment Co. - Defiance, Ohio
- Henry Implement Co. - Continental, Ohio
- Meyer Farm Equipment - Ridgeville Corners, Ohio
- Siebenaler Equipment Corp. - Bryan, Ohio
- Homier & Sons - Payne, Ohio
- Archbold Equipment - Archbold, Ohio
- Harvey Equipment Center - Van Wert, Ohio
- Decker Equipment - Sherwood, Ohio
- Leichte Farm Equipment - Archbold, Ohio
- R. F. Schroeder Tractor Sales - Columbus Grove, Ohio
- Deshler Implement - Deshler, Ohio

Paper Clips - 1964

What's a paper clip for? To clip papers together? According to the London Daily Mirror, a study of the paper clip situation at Lloyds' Bank reveals that of the 1,000 on hand, only one-fifth of the number were used to clip. The survey showed:

- 19,431 were used as stakes for card games
- 14,163 were twisted and broken during telephone conversations
- 200 were used as make-shift hooks on women's lingerie.
- 5,434 were used as toothpicks or ear scratchers.
- 5,308 were used as nail cleaners.
- 3,916 were used to clean pipes.

The rest were dropped on the floor, swept up, left lying in odd desk drawers - and a few were swallowed by children.

Noggin Knockers - 1975

Do You Remember?

- ... The dutch hoe?
- ... Putting a ring in the bull's nose?
- ... Where you put the old black pancake griddle?
- ... When the dial tone replaced the "Number, please?"
- ... Using a hay knife?
- ... The horse trough on the main street in town?
- ... When an acre of ground cost less than a ton of present day fertilizer?
- ... The sizzle of a red hot horseshoe as the blacksmith plunged it into a barrel of water?
- ... Heating water for the Saturday night baths?
- ... Pulling wild carrots along the roadside?
- ... Where there were more pocket watches than wrist watches?
- ... Spike Jones and his city slickers?
- ... Kicking the top off an anthill in the pasture?
- ... Your first dime store mouth organ?
- ... The free jackknife that came with a pair of high top shoes?
- ... When there were no summer reruns?
- ... Catching crickets under the threshing machine?
- ... The first time you slept out doors at night?
- ... Plugging green apples with a stick?
- ... Sharpening your pocket knife on the old grindstone?
- ... Being given a dose of warm water and mustard to cure a stomach ache?
- ... Digging up fish worms on the north side of the barn?

Saying 1963

Show me a man, having the time of his life doing the best he knows how - something he would rather do than anything else on earth - and I will show you a man with personality.

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Summer Smallmouths - Tools Of The Trade

In the halcyon days of my youth I used to sit on the river bank with a cane pole in one hand and a Pepsi in the other, along with a peach can full of worms nearby.

Alas those days are pretty much gone with the wind.

Not that there is anything wrong with that laid back style of fishing, but I find myself being more inclined to take the fight to the fish where they live-in the river itself.

Consequently, my choice of gear has to be limited to what I can carry in my fishing vest or in my pockets.

Here are some of the items that I would not leave home without.

I am going to begin with a good, stout wading staff.

This may sound strange, but I consider it almost as valuable as a rod and reel.

There have been many occasions where I either slipped and lost my footing or stumbled over a boulder.

My wading staff was like an extra arm that I could depend on to save me from a cold, wet dunking in the river.

A good staff can be just as fancy and expensive as you wish to make it.

Mine is a cut down broom handle with a hole drilled in one end.

A cord goes through the hole and is tied to my waders.

I'd hate to step into the water without it.

As you can tell, I like to wade/fish for river fish, smallmouths in particular.

During the summer months, when the water levels are low, I step into a pair of Cabela's Caddis hip boots.

They aren't cheap, but my pair has lasted me for

Graybeard Outdoors

by ol' Graybeard

quite a few years.

During the early spring or late fall I pull up a pair of 5mm chest high neoprene waders that will keep me dry in deeper water and helps me stay warm when both the water and the air are chilly.

My clothing usually consists of cotton trousers, two pairs of socks, or one pair during warm weather, a tee shirt, or a long sleeved shirt to ward off mosquitoes, and a good pair of polarized sunglasses.

Naturally, I slip a small spray can of bug repellent in a pocket.

Also in a pocket goes a Swiss army knife.

It's invaluable for tightening up a screw on a reel, or cutting a lure off the line.

I never carry a net...it just gets in the way.

Even though smallies are hard fighters, they can be landed by hand without much difficulty, unhooked and then released.

Just be cautious not to get a hook in the hand.

And, when fighting a fish, try to keep your legs together if possible.

Smallies are notorious for darting between a fisherman's legs.

If that fish has a crankbait in its mouth, a hook could tear a hole in the legs of an expensive pair of waders.

My rod choice usually consists of a spinning rod

that is anywhere from 6-1/2 to 7 feet in length, with a fast taper, medium or medium/light action, a flexible tip and a stout backbone.

Such a rod is necessary for setting the hook in the hard mouth of a smallmouth.

The flexible tip aids in making a long cast and helps keep a hard fighting fish from breaking the line.

More often than not, my choice is an Abu-Garcia rod that is 6-1/2 feet in length.

As for spinning reels, I like an Abu-Garcia reel that is spooled with 8 pound monofilament line.

I've experimented with braided line on a spinning reel and I detest it.

I keep my ice fishing reels loaded with braid, but not my river rods.

Fluorocarbon line is fine for fishing crankbaits, in-line spinners, jigs, etc., however, since it sinks I don't like to use it for surface lures.

Day in and day out, give me a good mono line, Berkley Trilene is a good all around choice in either 6 or 8 pound test.

In my fishing vest I carry:

- a pair of nail clippers for clipping line,
- a pair of needle nosed pliers for unhooking fish,
- a thermometer for reading the water temperature,
- two plastic lure containers,
- a small Zebco De-Liar,
- a couple of Band-Aids,
- a chain stringer (in case I catch some catfish),
- and a small packet of toilet paper, (which needs no explanation).

While a smallmouth will eat just about anything that falls in, emerges, or floats down the river, there are many sure fire lures that will usually garner some good strikes.

Here are just a few:

My very favorite river crankbait is the Rapala Ratlin' Rap in either bluegill or crawdad colors.

This is a lipless crank that creates a fuss underwater.

Both its vibrations and its internal rattle chambers let the fish know that prey is in the water and that it can be caught and eaten.

Other similar selections?

The Berkley Frenzy, the Cordell Hot Spot or the Bill Lewis Rat-L-Trap.

Fish them fast or fish them slow until the fish let you know what they want.

Lipped cranks include the always good Yo-Zuri L Minnow in rainbow trout color, the Rapala Original Floating Minnow in blue/silver or black/gold and the Storm Wee-Wart in rainbow or yellow sunfish colors.

There are many more cranks on the market, but since I have limited space in my vest these proven veterans go into the box.

An old river standby is the in-line spinner, almost any fish will hit it, including catfish, sheepshead and carp.

There is no better in-line spinner than the Mepps Aglia.

Experiment with various sizes and colors and you'll soon know what the fish want.

A close second is the Blue Fox spinner in silver.

There is no more fun in river fishing than having a red-eyed smallie smash a surface bait.

My top choice is the tried and true Rebel Pop-R in blue/silver or Baby Bass.

If you have had much experience fishing on rivers you will know Pop-R water when you see it.

This lure isn't worth much in strong current, but lay it down next to a fallen tree in the water, under hanging limbs, near an emergent boulder, in slack water near current flow or in still water near weed beds, let it rest, twitch it a few times and expect an explosion at any moment.

It truly is a dynamite top water lure...so is the buzzbait.

I have no idea what it is supposed to imitate, but when it comes gurgling across the surface of the water it drives the fish crazy.

I don't pay attention to brand names when it comes to buzz baits, I just buy the generic lures when they are on sale and they seem to work just fine.

One more trick of the trade which should never be forgotten is to make about 98% of your casts upstream.

That's the direction of the flow of food in the water and that is the direction in which the fish will be looking and waiting.

Good luck in your spring, summer and fall fishing.

John Bennett is an outdoor writer from Lima, Ohio. He's a retired educator and a historical reenactor. Graybeard is his "camp name." In addition, he's a husband, father and grandfather, as well as a four-season outdoorsman.

FN

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A shy fox pup



Hummingbird in flight



A winter view from a culvert.



A lonely railroad track by Okolona.



Multi-colored Dahlia



Morning's dew

SNAP SHOTS

(Continued From Page 1)

Liam that keep them busy. Ben lives near Sherwood. Zach and Jamie live in Tennessee, and Laura and Richard are near Napoleon in Freedom Township.

Ann raised ponies those early years and later on quarter horses and then eventually Percheron draft horses which she would show at the Henry County Fair as well as at other shows in Defiance, Fulton, Van Wert, and Wood counties.

"Over the years", she shared, "I went to a lot of

Love For Animals



"Queen" Faith

horse sales to buy and even sell a few horses at Mount Gilead, Topeka , as well as in Pennsylvania which is well known for Percheron breeders."

Together her and Steve have owned various animals including pygmy and Nubian goats.

"Animals do make life interesting." Ann said, "One of our goats would chew on a draft horse's leg, so the horse just grabbed the goat by the neck and tossed it, of course, that did not phase the goat one bit, it went right back to chewing on the horse again...silly goats!"

Over the years, while working at a veterinary office, Ann's love for animals grew even more.

One of the things she enjoyed was going out on the farm visits to help care for

and treat large animals.

This love continues even today with their pets including a basset hound named Faith, who has been part of their family for 5 years.

Faith is a rescue of sorts and believes she's the "queen" no matter where she is!

Employment

Ann has held several other jobs over the years including at the Henry County Transportation Network where she worked for 18 years and then retired from there.

For the last 3 years, she has been driving for 4A Housing which includes transporting people with disabilities to their jobs.

She also keeps herself very busy mowing lawns

for the past 35 years, working at the Board of Elections, and doing the books for Steve's business.

Life in Pictures

About 12 years ago, Ann developed a new interest — photography.

She started out as a complete beginner and shared, "I got a camera and just started taking pictures and discovered how much I liked it, so I invested in different cameras, lenses, and other equipment to snap pictures in different settings and conditions."

Ann has done graduations and weddings, but her favorite subjects are wildlife and landscape photos.

(Continued on Page 7)



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Kayaking on the Maumee River.

SNAP SHOTS

(Continued From Page 6)

She makes many trips to *Magee Marsh* and the surrounding area, as well as at *Simpson Garden Park*, and Independence Dam just to name a few favorite spots.

She has entered contests at the Wassenberg Art Center in Van Wert, where she has won some first places as well as second and third for her photography art.

Since there are a lot of categories and expenses that go along with the competition, Ann has not done as much lately, but she has sold some pieces from those art expositions.

Photographing wildlife such as foxes, owls, and eagles are some of Ann's favorite subjects.

She also enjoys the challenges of winter photography including trying to capture snowflakes.

"Snowflakes are a lot more difficult and challenging," she explained.

At least one camera accompanies Ann at all times

just waiting to capture a moment that piques her interest, including places she and Steve go to on vacation (the few times that they are able).

While in West Virginia, Ann got some great shots of a grist mill at Babcock State Park.

A lot of Ann's work is done for fun or free will donations, however, she has done some photo expositions at the Armory in Napoleon and at the Florida Library, plus you can find her work online through various outlets.

She also did the cover and some of the pictures in a book titled *"The Potato Hack: Weight Loss Simplified"* written by her nephew, Tim Steele, who lives in North Pole, Alaska.

She stated, "I even tried the diet and lost 25 pounds!"

Hobbies

Ann enjoys gardening with flowers and loves the outdoors... and as often as possible all year round, she and a group of friends go kayaking.

They do trips to Defi-



The beauty of a snowflake.

ance, down to Grand Rapids, Providence Dam, and other places on the Maumee River...some of the group have even gone north but Ann wasn't able to make that trip.

Another hobby of Ann's is calligraphy.

She has done posters for people retiring from Campbell Soup Co. over the years, however, now computers have taken over that job.

She has also written out poems for people in calligraphy, and she does copperplate writing, italic, roman, and gothic as well.

Ann explains that "Copperplate is a refined, pointed-pen calligraphy style characterized by high contrast between thin hairlines



Ann's she-shed.



Enjoying a campfire.

and thick downstrokes, typically written at a 55-degree slant."

"Originating from 18th-century English handwriting, it is popular for elegant invitations and social correspondence."

Another one of Ann's favorite things is decorating for Holidays – especially Christmas and Halloween!

Her Christmas light display is well known and widely visible from State Route 281 and Florida (OHIO that is)!

She artfully places lights on her she-shed and trees around their peninsula and pond, and adds more lights around their house to really add color and life at Christmas.

Other Interests

Other interests Ann has is playing in a euchre card club which mainly meets in the winter and she enjoys their outings together.

Friday nights the family has camp fires in the woods by their home, where they

have a clearing as well as several trails to enjoy year round.

So, if you're out and about and see Ann with her camera in hand, you know she's doing something she truly loves and enjoys - taking pictures of the beauty around her.

On a side note - Ann is currently looking for a vintage truck for her yard in her spare time...so if you have one you're wanting to part with let her know.

Note: Farmland News would like to thank Ann Overhulse for sharing her story.

Kelly (Wiemken) Copeland 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.



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The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



Looking Back

This week we'll be turning back the pages of time and I'll share bits of a letter I wrote to friends five years ago.

Kick back and take a moment to relax, knowing that the One who held the past holds the moment and guards the future.

Julia is nine years old and enjoys being a big sister to all the little ones.

Since school is out she thrives on having a routine around the house.

(Thanks to Daddy for encouraging us to have an outline for the children, so they know what to expect out of their days.)

At 6:30 she and Austin get up to do laundry.

We have two washers, which makes it very nice for them.

I've been telling them that when we have more children to help with the laundry we'll go back to a wringer washer — we'll see.

After the laundry for the day is washing, they return upstairs to set the table.

By that time it's 7:00 and the other children are waking, and we're ready for devotions.

Breakfast comes next, then the children all help clear and wipe the table while I clean up Joshua.

Yes, he absolutely loves eating — there's food everywhere by the time he's finished.

I have come to enjoy this stage, though; my others have grown out of it so quickly!

Anyway, next Julia and Austin have what they call their "quiet time," consisting of prayer time, reading, Jesus Calling for Kids, and jotting down a few things they are thankful for.

Since Austin can't read yet, I often read his passage for him, then he draws pic-

tures of things he's thankful for.

Next they tackle their routine morning jobs of washing dishes, picking up toys, sweeping, and hanging up the clean wash.

They have come to appreciate dreary days, as they get to use the dryer on those occasions.

Next, Austin waters our newly planted apple trees, then goes to the shop for "shop time" with Daddy.

I'm chuckling as I write — in case you think this sounds too easy, hang on!

Over the past months or years there have been a lot of "sweat and tears" that have gone into the training aspect.

We don't have some sort of super-home at all!

It really is amazing how a child thrives on a predictable routine, yet how easy it is to not have one — and believe me, I'm not a person who is super disciplined by nature.

The three middle children, as we call them, also have some routine jobs of filling Daddy's water jug, fetching the quail eggs, mixing up greens for everyone, and such.

Anyway, by 10:30 Baby Joshua has had his first nap, then we all head for the shop and have practice sessions.

Now, these have somehow become lifesavers.

We'll practice all sorts of things — like how we want to ask a brother for a toy tractor by saying, "I'll take a turn once you're done," or how to introduce ourselves to strangers, or what to do when we're feeling upset, or to ask Mom for permission before sneaking outdoors barefooted on a snowy day.

They often give input on what we could use practice on and love these times together.

These simple practices of how to do things cor-

Recipe Of The Week

Shell Macaroni Salad

1 cup (or more) shell macaroni
 1 can drained peas (I like to use the equivalent in frozen peas that have been cooked)
 1/2 cup diced celery
 3 hard boiled eggs, diced
 1/2 cup diced cheese
 1 small onion, diced
 1/2 cup diced sweet pickles

Cook, drain and rinse shell macaroni well with cold water.
 Add remaining ingredients; mix with about 1/3 cup of mayonnaise which has been thinned a bit with some pickle juice and seasoned with salt and pepper to taste.
 Keep refrigerated until serving time.

This recipe is from Lori Wachtman, Napoleon, Ohio

rectly have cut disciplining and correcting behaviors by more than half.

After the practice session, the oldest five children trek down to the pond to feed our catfish.

By the time they get back it's lunchtime.

The afternoon passes with naps and routine jobs such as putting the dried laundry away, along with plenty of playtime.

It's Monday evening — all the children are outside!

You should've seen the show a couple of minutes ago.

Daniel was mowing the yard with our stand-on mower and gave four children a ride, all at once.

One was on his shoulders and three sat squished in a row on the platform where Daniel usually stands.

With his foot space taken, he put his right foot on the side of the mower fender and the other next to the children on the platform.

Four-year-old Hosanna proudly held Daddy's Croc since there was only room for one bare foot — not even a Croc!

Julia trailed behind, holding Joshua, who was quite impressed with what he saw.

I laughed and savored the moment.

Surely God is good.

There are countless opportunities to savor days with six little people in your home, though we have our chaotic moments too.

Good morning, I'm back again.

We'll keep it a secret how many times I sat down to get in touch with you all, only to have more pressing needs come up!

I've been touched by all those of you who have had "deep waters to wade" and experienced heart-rending losses over the past year.

May our loving Father carry you through each moment — all the way from here to eternity.

Surely He knows our future far better than we know our past, or even the present moment!

With love from all of us at the Yoder household!

Daniel & Gloria, Julia (9), Austin (6), Hosanna (4), Jesse (3), Elijah (3), Joshua (10 months)

I'll wrap up with quesadillas — a super versatile food you can easily make last minute that Daniel enjoys.

If you have tortillas on hand, you can put in whatever you happen to enjoy: ham, cheese, chicken, fried or grilled meat, a handful of cheese — you name it!

Quesadillas

- 1 flour tortilla
- 2 tablespoons pizza sauce
- 1/4 cup sausage Pepperoni

1 tablespoon onion chopped

1 tablespoon green peppers chopped

1/4 cup cheese

Spread pizza sauce on half of tortilla, top with remaining ingredients.

Note that any other pizza toppings of your choice may be added.

Fold tortilla in half and pinch shut with your fingers, working your way around the semi-circle.

If desired moisten edges of tortilla with water to help edges stick together.

Fry in butter over medium heat until both sides are golden brown.

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

FN

EDITOR'S NOTE: After thirty years of writing about Amish life, Kevin Williams - The Amish Cook's editor has finally written a book readers have been asking for.

"Not So Simple: My Adventures Among the Amish, Mennonites, Shakers and Other Plain People" is the story behind the stories — funny, self-deprecating, and raw.

Order on Amazon at amish365.com/notsosimple (\$23.99), or mailing a check to Oasis Newsfeatures, PO BOX 157 Middletown, Ohio 45327. Allow two weeks for delivery.

"FARMLAND NEWS"

Makes A Great Gift Idea

Reader Recipes

Flourless Carrot Cake

To make a flourless carrot cake, you'll typically use ground nuts or seeds as a substitute.

Here's a simple recipe using almond flour:

2 cups grated carrots
1 cup almond flour
1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
1/2 cup honey or natural sweetener
2 large eggs
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon salt
Chopped nuts or seeds for topping (optional)

Grease a 9-inch round cake pan.

In a large bowl, combine grated carrots, almond flour, unsweetened applesauce, honey, eggs, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt; mix well.

Pour the mixture into the prepared cake pan and smooth the top.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Remove from oven and let cool completely before topping with your preferred frosting or nuts.

This cake is moist and flavorful, thanks to the carrots and applesauce.

You can adjust the sweetness and spices to your liking.

Enjoy!

**Mary Schroll
McComb, Ohio**

Cookie Bites

1/2 cup butter (softened)
1/4 cup brown sugar
2 tablespoons white sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 whole egg
1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 cup mini chocolate chips
Nutella (for dipping)

Line a baking tray with parchment paper.

In a mixing bowl, beat butter, brown sugar and white sugar until creamy and smooth.

Add the egg and vanilla extract; mix until well combined.

In another bowl, mix flour, salt and baking soda.

Gradually add the dry ingredients into the butter mixture and mix until a soft dough forms.

Fold in the mini chocolate chips evenly.

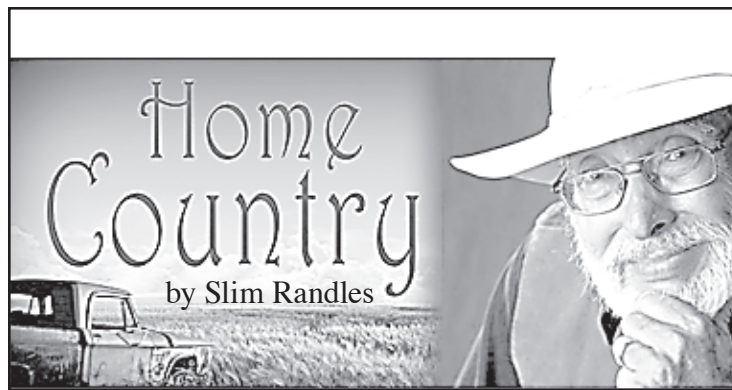
Scoop small marble-size dough balls and place them on the baking tray with a little space between them.

Bake in 350 degree oven for 6 to 9 minutes until the cookies turn lightly golden on the edges.

Let the cookie bites cool slightly so they become soft inside and lightly crisp outside.

Serve the cookie bites in bowls with Nutella dip in the center.

**Mary Schroll
McComb, Ohio**



June just might be the first month of summer ... to most of us.

But for some of this planet's people, it's the dead of winter.

That would be those wonderful folks who live south of the equator, of course.

While we are busy cremating some cow or pig on the backyard barbecue, they are still holed up and wondering if they can make it to penguin season without starving.

And I'm just kidding of course because;

1) I'm fairly certain no nation has a penguin season.

2) Penguins don't need any more problems.

Hey, they already live where it's too cold and they walk funny.

I thought I knew all kinds of things about sleds and dogs.

Hadn't I already won a 100-mile race?

Hadn't I darn near won a 300-mile race?

Didn't I live 12 miles from my car and have to use the team to get to town and to file my columns.

Heck yes!

Well, in those days I was married to Pam, who ran race headquarters for the Iditarod Race.

That was a long, cold 1100-mile camping trip from Anchorage to Nome.

This finds us in race headquarters in Anchorage, which looked an awful lot like a borrowed room in the Roosevelt Hotel.

Just before the second race, which was in March of 1974, we were sitting in the room and in walks a very finely dressed gentleman with a Boston accent, and introduced himself as Norman Vaughan.

He sat down and asked some race questions, and I'm afraid I answered them all.

Halderman Welcomes Tyler Wiemken As Real Estate Associate

Halderman Real Estate and Farm Management welcomes Tyler Wiemken as a Real Estate Associate in Northwest Ohio.

Tyler joins the Halderman Companies team with a background in agriculture and farm operations.

Born and raised on a small family row crop operation in Defiance, Ohio, Tyler continues to play an active role as the fourth generation returning to the farm.

He graduated from Tinoira High School in 2022 and went on to attend Northwest State Community College, where he earned an associate's degree in Agribusiness.

Tyler then continued his education at Huntington University, earning a bach-

elor's degree in Agribusiness: Economics & Finance.

Halderman CEO Howard Halderman said "The Halderman Companies welcomes Tyler to our team and look forward to expanding our appraisal and real estate services in Northwest Ohio.

Tyler recently won the Huntington University Agribusiness Excellence Award for 2026 demonstrating professionalism, academic success, and leadership capabilities.

He will be an excellent addition to our team in NW Ohio!"

Tyler looks forward to serving clients of the Northwest Ohio community through real estate services.

Outside of agriculture, Tyler enjoys watching sports, particularly Notre Dame football and the Chicago Cubs.

#

Halderman Farm Man-

Never did learn to stop talking about dogs.

A couple of hours later, Norman left and we both remarked how polite and kind he was.

Well, about an hour after that, we were listening to the radio and the announcer said, "Our special guest speaker for the mushers' banquet tonight will be Colonel Norman Vaughan, who drove a dog team to the South Pole in 1929 as a safety back-up for pilot Richard Byrd."

I wasn't able to speak at all after the biggest embarrassment of my life.

But Pam made up for it by laughing her head off.

Finally, I had to laugh, too, after my coaching talk to an old guy from Boston. I said to Pam, "Well, at least he now knows the right way to do it."

Norman and I were close friends for the rest of his life.

But there really should be a lever or something that you could pull and have the floor open up and swallow noisy dog mushers, newspaper columnists, and other blights on humanity.

Brought to you by "Dogsled, A True Tale of the North" which I wrote because someone had to. It's online.

FN

agement Service, Inc. was founded in 1930 in Wabash, Ind., by Howard H. and Marie Halderman.

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FN

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1665: Thomas Willett is appointed the first mayor of New York City.

1817: The earliest form of bicycle, the dandy horse, is driven by Karl von Drais.

1939: The Baseball Hall of Fame opens in Cooperstown, New York.

World FACT:



The roller coaster that will be the tallest and fastest in the world is being built in this country.

Answer: Saudi Arabia

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

CKATR

LAFL

PSDEE

CITTEK

O N

Answers: Track, Fall, Speed, Ticket : Front car rider

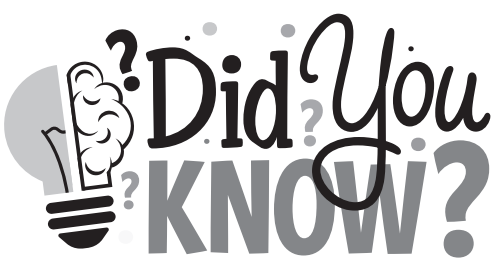


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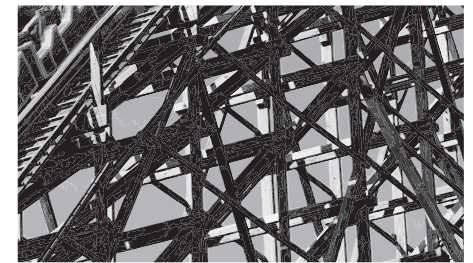
a roller coaster that turns riders upside-down



- English:** Ride
- Spanish:** Atracción
- Italian:** Giostra
- French:** Attraction
- German:** Attraktion



LaMarcus Adna Thompson is widely credited as being the "father of the roller coaster."



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Roller coaster trestle

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5/4/2026 908 Bales	5/11/2026 906 Bales	5/18/2026 535 Bales	5/25/2026 No Sales
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Small Squares	Low	High
Straw.....	1.00	- 2.30
1st Grass.....	3.00	- 6.50
1st Alfalfa Grass.....	3.25	- 6.50
2nd Alfalfa Grass.....	5.00	- 9.50
3rd Alfalfa Grass.....	5.75	- 9.25
4th Alfalfa Grass.....	5.00	- 7.50
1st Alfalfa.....	6.00	- 8.25
Clover.....	3.50	- 4.50
Grass/Clover.....	2.75	- 7.00

Round Bales	Low	High
Straw.....	16.00	- 37.50
1st Alfalfa.....	22.50	- 75.00
1st Alfalfa Grass.....	50.00	- 62.50
2nd Alfalfa Grass.....	24.00	- 70.00
3rd Alfalfa Grass.....	22.50	- 40.00
1st Grass.....	24.00	- 37.50
2nd Grass.....	15.00	- 75.00
Oats.....	10.00	- 22.50

Large Squares	Low	High
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1st Alfalfa.....	52.50	- 70.00

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