

Daydreaming in the outhouse

"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:21,22,23

Another cloudy day. We had a little sunshine early. I was dreaming of coming home from work and how I would wash pillows, throws, you name it and hang it outside to dry. Then I happened to look at the north. I saw this big, dark cloud bank rising out of the horizon. It looked to be full of snow. The good intentions left me like air out of a popped balloon.

How many of you heard it thunder last night? And did you see the lightning? It was

52 degrees on January 16 no less!

I remember my dad saying if it thunders in an empty timber (meaning no leaves on the trees) it will get cold. So?? How cold will it get?

Oh well, I guess as long as our gas tank doesn't run empty and we have plenty of coffee and sandwich fixings, we'll weather it.

In one of our devotionals this morning, we read about back in the time when not everyone had electricity and indoor plumbing. A little shack out back served the purpose for answering nature's calls.

Our grandchildren, even our children, missed out on the "luxury" of ice wooden seats in the winter and all kinds of four and six legged, or even eight legged critters to deal with in the summer, to say nothing of the stench, especially on hot, humid days.

Toilet paper shortage was no issue. As long as Sears and Roebuck mailed their catalogs,



My Amish Home

By Millie Otto

we were good to go.

And in the summertime, providing the stench wasn't too overpowering, you could browse and daydream. I soon learned, though, that is does no good to tarry out there long enough for the dishes to be done.

They were waiting for me when I got in. And I'm wondering if I didn't hear them chuckle. No, it was probably a sister! Ha! Ha!

The first place I remember living, I was just a preschool tot, that outhouse had a small

knob in the door about eye level if you were on the seat and a little girl. Big sis Louise would come out if I was on the inside, and put her eye right to that knob. I always screamed! It looked so positively SPOOKY!!

Too bad I didn't have the sense to cover up that hole.

Ahh, yes those were the days!

I often wonder, what will our grandchildren have to say that they had to do or do without back in the day. Kind of sad, really.

Even on the farm, no more scooping manure by hand, you have a skid. No more carrying bucket after bucket of milk from the barn to the milkhouse in all kinds of weather, you have pipeline, if by any chance you milk, that is.

I'm not complaining. I like our conveniences, our creature comforts, hot showers, no frozen pipes, tool battery powered stuff, but yeah, it makes me wonder, are we losing our work ethics? Are we becoming too individualistic?

And yet we, as a community still work together, in time of need. We can depend on neighbors, churches, families, yes, we have many blessings.

Some changes are improvements and some, you wonder.

But as far as our church services, they remain basically the same, which is something I really appreciate. There have been some changes, basically just a different approach, maybe adjustments made to accommodate more people. But one thing I do hope remains and that is the church lunch. I have no problem with occasionally having a hot meal. But I do hope, in my time, anyway, homemade bread, mixed peanut butter, and cheese spread stays.

I don't care how diverse the rest of the menu gets, as long as we still have our peanut butter and cheese. It defines

us, it is who we are!

In closing---Today is life. The only life you are sure of. Make the most of today. Get interested in something. Develop a hobby. Let the winds of enthusiasm sweep through you. Live today with gusto. ***Dale Carnegie

Ho hum---what recipe shall it be this week?

How about this refreshing lemon dessert.

Lemon Tart

- 1 cup sugar
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- 1 cup milk
- 3 egg yolks, beaten
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 tblsp. Grated lemon peel
- 1 cup (8 oz.) sour cream
- 1 baked 8-inch pie crust
- whipped topping

In a saucepan, combine the sugar and cornstarch. Gradually add milk until smooth. Cook and stir over medium-high heat until thickened. Reduce heat; cook and stir 2 minutes longer. Remove from heat. Stir in a small amount of hot liquid into egg yolk; return all to saucepan. Bring to a gentle boil, stirring constantly. Cook

2 minutes longer. (mixture will be very thick)

Remove from heat; stir in butter and lemon peel. Gently stir in the lemon juice. Cover and cool completely. Fold in sour cream. Pour into pie crust. Refrigerate for a least 2 hours before cutting. Garnish with whipped topping. Refrigerate leftovers (if any!).

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meeting will be next week at the high school. "I am hoping to create some relationships in moving forward and help bring the community together as one unit," he quoted. Cheek said he would report more after the meeting had taken place.

Cheek finished the meeting with a few celebrations. "Mr. Coleman is back and is on light desk duty. The three elementary principals are working together in ways that were unexpected and Mr. Foreman has been doing great his first year," he said.

Local Teen Found Dead January 20 in Atwood

By DORIS ELMORE
Staff Writer

The Village of Atwood has had two tragedies of young people recently, Karen Fennessy on December 23, 2022 and Eian Urban on January 20, 2023. The loss of these residents, one 20 years old and one 19, is upsetting to everyone. Whether you knew them or not, it is difficult to understand.

People continue to think that nothing ever happens in a small town. This proves there is no small town USA anymore. Bad things happen, just not as often as a larger town.

According to Atwood Police Chief Rob Bross, on Friday morning, January 20, the body of Eian Urban, 19, was found lying in the 100 block of West Central by the backdoor of former business, Things Forgotten. A passerby saw the body and called 911.

There were no obvious signs of trauma. Final cause of death depends on the toxicology report, which will take between 30-45 days. Rumors are false



EIAN URBAN

that another dead person was found at the cemetery, or the body was found by a youth on their way to school.

Eian's mother is Anna Urban of Michigan. When in Atwood, he lived with his grandfather Art Urban who passed away on December 17, 2020.

This incident is being investigated by the Atwood Police Department and Piatt County Coroner's Office. Additional information will be forthcoming as it is available.

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