DOWN MEMORY LANE

100 Years ago
Feb. 8, 1923

• Al Brown reports a ewe at his farm presented him with four fine young lambs Sunday evening. The lambs are all about the same size and fine and healthy. Coming in quartets is a rare occurrence in the sheep family. Al has 13 children himself.

• One of the most pleasant and largest attended meetings of the Westminster Society was held at the home of Mrs. Henry Moore last Tuesday afternoon when the hostess assisted by Mrs. Clarence Coombe and Mrs. Carter Hayes entertained at a Valentine Party. The guests were received by two little pages, Elizabeth Ann Ewing and Richard Ries Smith dressed as Valentines.

• Mr. and Mrs. Rice J. Moore entertained the members of the Presbyterian choir at a six o'clock dinner last Friday evening. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Hinkle and son Garland, Mr. and Mrs. James Breedlove, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Smith, Mrs. Cora Heeb, Miss Bertha G. Holt and Mrs. M.F. Crews. Following dinner the evening was pleasantly spent in guessing contests and games.

• Arcola's basketball team won one game in the Douglas County Tournament beating Hindsboro. They were eliminated with a 24 to 23 overtime loss to Garrett.

• Macbeth, a la Mode, will be given by the junior English class of the Arcola High School at the high school auditorium this evening at 8 o'clock. Participants in the play are Francis Conners, Charles Brooks, Ray Blackwell, Leroy Picard, Charles Sears, Glenn Black, Roy Brooks, Agnes Lins, Helen Karga, Bernice McTaggart, Ruth Lozier, Pauline Pfeifer, Martha McCain and Dorothy Rodell.

50 Years ago
Feb. 8, 1973

• A group composed of local citizens has been formed to inform voters in the Arcola School District about the proposed remodeling and construction plans for the school. The citizens group first met on Jan 24 to hear details of the project, as explained by school superintendent John Lowey. Heading the information committee are Jim Clark and Dave Uphoff, who also serve as co-chairmen of the Citizens Advisory Committee,Dale Gardner, president of the Arcola School Board and Lowey.

• A small farm community in the United States is very much the same as a similar community in the Soviet Union according to one of the two Russian poets who were visitors last Thursday. The group, which included the two poets, Michail Lukonin and Sergei Narcovchatov was greeted by the Arcola High School Band when they arrived in Arcola at the First National Bank.

Following a tour of the bank, the viewed the operations at the Thomas Monahan Company and the Warren Bros. Broom Factory. Lukonin was able to roll a strike on the bowling alleys at the Embassy before the group visited the Robert E. Coombe farm west of Arcola and made a tour of the Robert C. Coombe home on route 133.

They were served an Amish meal at the Edna Miller home west of Arthur, which was followed by a visit to the Arthur Collar shop and a visit to Old Bagdad at Rockome Gardens. The poets were able to master the reins of an Amish buggy when they made a solo journey on the Danny Miller farm.

The group visited an English class at Arcola high School where Lukonin recited one of his poems through the interpreter and told the group that small communities were closer to the earth than big cities.

• Michael Martin and John Huffer were present at the city council meeting with regard to an application for a liquor license for their proposed motel to be located near the I-57 interchange. The two, together with Jack Zimmerman plan to construct a motel restaurant complex which would contain a 60-unit motel, a tasty-world family-type restaurant and also a separate lounge and restaurant to be called Nights Out. The liquor license was amended to create another license so that the application could be considered at a later date.

• Arcola's Chamber of Commerce will entertain the area's farmers at 6:30 p.m. on Monday night Feb. 19, at the annual Farmer's night dinner at the Kaskaskia Country Club. The speaker for the event will be Dick Jorgensen from Champaign. Jorgensen is vice president of the First National Bank of Champaign as well as serving as an official for the National Football League for the past five years and is a versatile speaker.

• Dean Orville G. Bentley, University of Illinois College of Agriculture, presented plaques to six people who have attended all but one of the 25 annual Custom Spray Operators Training Schools. One plaque was presented to Leslie Gilbert of Gilbert Flying Service, Arcola.

25 years ago
Feb. 16,, 1998

• While keeping the weighted grade system in place, the Arcola School Board took steps at its meeting Monday night that is intended to place more emphasis on a student's letter grade. The school board unanimously approved the elimination of the multiplier, which has been an incentive for students to take more than the required number of classes to improve their grade point average and their class rank. The committee listed 14 reasons why they felt the multiplier should be eliminated.

• An expansion that will nearly double the square footage of an Arcola business is expected to be completed sometime this spring. Construction on a building addition at Country Charm, which is located on Illinois 133 in Arcola, is well underway and store managers Roger and Sue Yoder are hopeful the 6,400 square-foot structure will be ready for use by April. Yoder said with the addition they will be able to use it as a showroom for bedroom furniture, entertainment centers and living room furniture.

• The Rev. Joseph P. Allen began his appointment with St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Arcola, Saturday, February 7.

• For the third time this season, Arcola senior Jeremy Blackwell hit the game winning shot. This time it was a 17-footer in overtime as the Purple Riders nipped the Indians of Niantic-Harristown 55-53 Friday in Niantic. Brad Pullen had 20 and Keith Sargent 11 in the win. However, Arcola lost to Shiloh 67-60 despite Matt Williams scoring 11 points in his first start. Pullen led with 19 points. Arcola is 15-8 overall and 5-3 in the Little Okaw Valley Conference.

• Nicole Foran had a team-high 14 points, Courtney Hackler added 13 and Lindsey Yoder 11 as Arcola edged Tuscola on the Lady Warriors Senior Night 48-47. The winning basket came on a 12-footer by Foran with just under a minute left. Arcola won its own Senior Night, downing Shiloh 69-37 as Angie Yoder had 17 points and Hackler 12. Arocla won its opening game of the regional tournament beating Atwood-Hammond 49-8 as Yoder had 10 points. Arcola coach Nancy Stiff was honored for her 25 years as head coach prior to the Shiloh game.

10 years ago
Feb. 17, 2013

• The Arcola Masonic Lodge has received official go-ahead from the Arcola City Council to proceed with plans to build a community center on Locust Street. The 152-year-old organization has met in a place above the former Lindenmeyer Insurance offices on Main Street since The Great Depression, but structural issues with the building prompted the Masonic Lodge to approach the city council about utilizing the vacant lot at 111 S. Locust Street, formerly the Illinois Amish Interpretive Center, to build a facility that would serve the dual-purpose of being a meeting place for the Masons while also serving the needs of the community. The Masons would develop a building project estimated at between $250,000 ($318, 510.50 today) and $300,000 ($382, 212.60 today) on the property.

• Best friends Pauline Lawrence and Imogene Thompson were presented with Honorary 'A' awards by the Arcola Sports Booster Club Friday against Heritage. Kevin Hohlbauch, public address announcer, said Lawrence and Thompson have been two of the most recognizable faces at the school since the middle of the 20th century. Thompson started working for the school as an office secretary in 1957. After four years in the grade school she moved to the high school office, where she remained until retiring in 1986 after 29 years of service.

Lawrence started working with the Arcola School District in the superintendent's office in 1956. Then in the 1970s, she took on the job as ticket taker for all sporting events. After returning from her jobs as secretary and ticket taker in 1986, Lawrence took on the role as school treasurer which she held until 2009. A total of 52 years of service at Arcola.

• January 20-26 marked Activity Professionals Week at Arcola Health Care Center. This year's theme was 'Making a Difference Every Day." Marylyn Jones, activity assistant, and Jamie Ferguson, activity director, were pictured in the R-H with their gifts of appreciation.

• Amber Michele Rothrock and Justin Michael Recchion were united in marriage August 11, 2012, at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Ga. The Rev. Karla Otroszko officiated the double-ring ceremony and a reception was held at the Greystone venue in Atlanta's Piedmont Park. The new Mrs. Recchion is the daughter of Randy and Cindi Rothrock of Arcola. She is a 2000 graduate of Arcola High School and a 2004 graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She works as a senior manager of reporting for Manheim in Atlanta, Ga.

The bridegroom is the son of Ray and Mary Reechion of Mooresville, N.C. He is a 2001 graduate of Mooresville High School in Mooresville, N. C. , a 2005 graduate of North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N. C. and earned his MBA in 2012 from Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Ga. After a wedding trip to Tahiti and Moorea in French Polynesia the couple are at home in Atlanta, Ga. with their golden retriever , Bailey.

• The Arcola eighth grade boys basketball team reached the coveted 20th victory mark and captured a regional championship in the same game. With a 46-29 win over Oblong in the Effingham St. Anthony Class 8-2A Regional championship game last Thursday as the Purple Riders improved to 20-0 heading into their sectional matchup Wednesday.

Members of the team are Parker Ingram, Clayton Miller, Daniel Mendoza, Javi Alanis, Blake Lindenmeyer, Valente Garcia, Kenyon Byard, Aaron Dudley, Dylan Shields, Cristian Garza, Nick Poorman, Tony Salinas, Angel De La Garza and Lawrence Yoder. The team manager is KayLee Hohlbauch. The assistant coach is Cory Joergens and the head coach is Kevin Hohlbauch.

THE DOUGLAS COUNTY MUSEUM posted this photo to the Remembering Arcola Facebook page. It's the William Marshall Gray family (1851-1933) of Arcola in 1913 showing off their new Overland touring car. The family lived at the northeast corner of Rt. 133 and Elm Street in Arcola. The museum writes: "The women aren't labeled, but may include mother Ellen Caroline Warden Gray (1852-1927), sister Maude Gray Nott (1875-1962), and Ina L. Rabb Gray (1885-1917), whom the brother Clifford married in 1913.