

Remembering Delano: "Fine and dandy like sugar candy!"

It's my column and I'll write what I want to? Hope you will all indulge me this week as I remember Delano.

"It's a Wonderful Life" has always been one of my favorite movies. We have no idea how much we impact the lives of others until for most of us, unlike Jimmy Stewart, it is too late. However those left behind are comforted by the prayers, words, texts, phone calls of

those who share their memories of our loved ones. To us, Delano was a husband, father, Papa, brother, uncle, cousin, etc. but to many he was a friend and sometimes a mentor. The guy you could depend on always.

When we started this the day after Thanksgiving and went to the hospital where Delano was diagnosed with pancreaticitis we knew it was going to be

a journey but, as I have related often lately, we never thought it would end the way it did. Sadly, it just became too much of a struggle and too much to overcome. Fortunately (I guess), we were able to sit around and share stories and talk about the good times. As my cousin Linda related to me, one of the doctors told them as her husband was dying, "He can hear you. Talk, tell stories, laugh. He hears your laughter and it makes him happy and it also lets him know that you are all going to be ok." So we did just that and many of us were in the room when he passed.

I have learned so many things over these past 3 plus months. The main one is BE AN ADVOCATE! Your loved one needs you to never stop questioning, never stop asking what is being done and why, and don't worry about whether the doctors/nurses/staff like it. And I will tell you that I had more than one of them say to me that it was fine and exactly what you should do. Who knows, you may actually make them look at something a little differently and try something else. And if your outcome is like ours, that is when you stop questioning, stop asking yourself why. The decisions made at the time were the best that could be made given the situation. As my cousin Mike told me, you have to believe that God was guiding you in making those decisions. I will admit this is the one I am going to struggle with the most but have to remind myself to accept how it ended. We don't know why and we may never know why but no amount of 'what ifs' will change the situation.

When Delano and I started our lives together 53 years ago (technically 57), we had no idea when or how it was going to end. My gosh we were young! Obviously you're never ready for the end and always think there will be more time. I know we say that all the time but boy does something like this bring it home. I hope I live the rest of my days remembering this and make the most of them.

We raised a couple of pretty good kids I think and are fortunate to have six grandkids and can't imagine life without them. But we also built a life with other family members who we have come to appreciate more and more lately as they have all been here for us as much as possible. I could not have gotten through the last three months without leaning on Jason and Kyra for their advice and support, not to mention their love for both their dad and me. Also extended family, Delano's brother Duane and wife Linda, niece Stacy, nephew Zachery, wife Marissa. My cousins and Delano's cousins who kept in touch and sent their love and support that I was able to share with him. And what would I have done without my sister Sally? I knew I had nothing to worry about as far as things being taken care of back home especially with Payton and Squirt. Everything was in good hands. And I know Don and Matt were there supporting her too. This could not have been easy for her either. She and Delano were always great buddies and did a lot of things together when it came to working in the yard or around the house.

My high school friends who were there all along and have really rallied around the past week or so offering food, gifts, but mostly their love both for me and Delano. After all, he was a big part of all our lives from sophomore year of high school on. I feel how sad this has made them too. And Delano's high school classmates. So many of them have reached out over the last few months to ask about him and let him know

they were thinking of and praying for him. What a special bunch of people!

The visitation and funeral made our family aware of how much Delano/Dad/Papa was thought of by so many. Friends in town, the aforementioned classmates, former Scouts, our church family (cannot tell you how often I ask what I would do/have done without our church family) and so many others. Thanks to the Boy Scouts and their leaders who attended the visitation to pay their respects. He would have so very much loved and appreciated that and it also gave us a chance to share with them how much Scouting meant to him and our hope that they would live up to the ideals of Scouting all their lives as he did.

A special thanks to our Pastor Jill Bunker and Jeff Edwards at Edwards Funeral Home for helping us through all the details and rituals. Professional and caring at the same time.

As for his golfing buddies - I did my best to keep them informed and they asked about him continually - I know how much they are going to miss him. For the group he golfed with at Timberlake, they never let him forget it was "all about Delano." That was their standard joke said with a lot of love.

One of our favorite things to tease Delano about was the

fact that he was related to everybody! If you were a cousin to his brother-in-law, you were his relation and we could never convince him that wasn't exactly how it worked.

As with my mom and dad, I know there are going to be many, many times over the months and years when I wish he was here to bounce ideas off of, to ask questions or have him remind me of something I have forgotten. He had a great

memory going way back. In fact we're pretty sure he 'remembered' things that never happened or happened a little differently but I suppose that is true of all of us.

Delano had a favorite phrase whenever anyone asked him how he was. We have to believe he is on a golf course somewhere playing his best game ever and telling everybody he is, "fine and dandy like sugar candy!"

Zion News

"Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." - Zechariah 9:9

The last days of the Lenten season are upon us, and Christians are looking forward to the upcoming Holy Week that starts with Palm Sunday.

The above Old Testament scripture is part of prophesy about how God's chosen king will triumph over the people's enemies and defend Jerusalem.

Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, is mentioned in all four of the Gospels. This event symbolizes the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophesy as Jesus is greeted by people waving palm branches and singing part of Psalm 118, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord."

In some churches Palm Sunday is celebrated by distributing palm branches to the congregation to represent the crowd praising Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem. These palms are sometimes woven into crosses.

In the early church, it was difficult to get palm branches in some climates, so branches of other trees like box, willow, and yew were used. The Sunday before Easter was then named after the substituted trees like "Yew Sunday" or "Branch Sunday."

Some people take these palm branches home and hang them next to Christian art or keep them in their Bibles or devotional books. Some churches burn the palms to make ashes to use for the following year's

Ash Wednesday services.

The symbolism of the donkey probably refers to the tradition that it is an animal of peace, unlike the horse which is an animal of war. An earthly king would have ridden a horse when he set out for war and when he returned triumphantly. Christ's entry into Jerusalem on a donkey would have symbolized his entry as the Prince of Peace, not as a warrior king.

So, Palm Sunday recalls the event of Jesus entering into Jerusalem and being greeted by people waving palm branches and singing. They may not have realized that Jesus was not the king the Old Testament prophet was expecting. For us today, it is a reminder to welcome Jesus into our hearts and follow his example of peace and love.

"Always keep in mind that ashes put on your forehead come from last Palm Sunday's burnt palms. Those things that are regarded as old and die are a major source of the new beginnings." - Richard Rohr, priest and author.

April Birthdays: Apr 13-Karol Suhl Allen, Apr 13-Steve Suhl, Apr 19-Wade Willoughby, Apr 22-Alana Heit Chapman, and Apr 29-Elise Hackett.

Anniversary: Apr 4-Angie & Darren Powell

If you would like to receive our monthly Good News email, send a request to ramonacarllyle@yahoo.com.

Zion's Sunday worship services begin at 9:00 AM. This coming Sunday Pastor Dennis Hanner will lead the worship service. Everyone is welcome.

Arthur History Fact #42 Travel

It didn't take long for the residents of Arthur to travel outside their small community.

The Arthur Graphic reported in January of 1910 that several Arthur people were wintering in Florida.

They went to Pensacola in those days as Miami was still a swamp town of only a few thousand people.

Also during the early 1900's Ida Dorman Morris, the wife of the President of the First National Bank of Arthur, James E. Morris, was a noteworthy authoress.

Described as "a very cultured lady," Mrs. Morris wrote several books on nature and travel including *Pacific Coast Vacation and A Tour of Mexico*.

NEWS FROM THE HEART OF THE AMISH COUNTRY ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

Published every Wednesday by Arthur Publishing Company (USPS 032-960) at 113 E. Illinois Street, P.O. Box 19, Arthur, Illinois 61911. Telephone (217) 543-2151, e-mail arthurgraphic@consolidated.net or arthurgraphic@yahoo.com, web site: www.arthurgraphic.com.

Deadline for advertising and editorial content, noon on Friday before desired publication date. Long legal ads noon on Thursday. Classified deadline is 4 p.m. Thursday.

Periodical Class postage paid at Arthur, Illinois 61911.

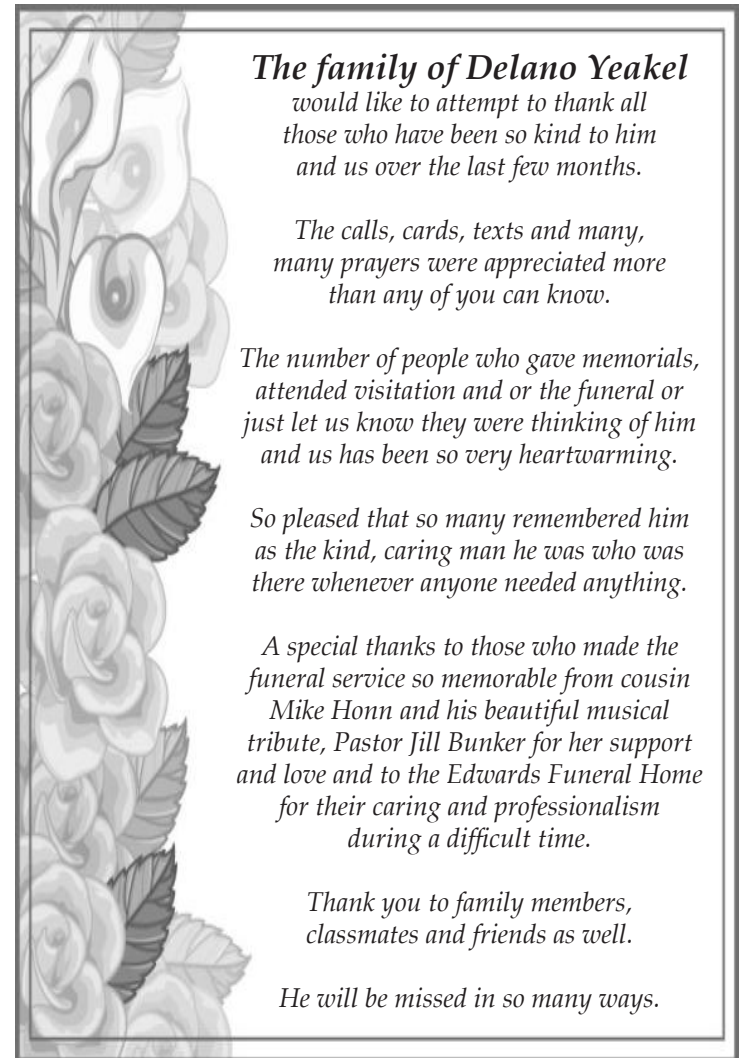
Subscription rates: \$50 per year in Douglas, Moultrie, and Piatt counties; \$60 out of county/state. A \$2.50 Senior Citizens discount is available. On-line subscriptions are \$40 per year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Arthur Graphic-Clarion, P.O. Box 19, Arthur, Illinois 61911.

Personnel: Greg Hoskins, publisher; Stephanie Wierman, general manager and advertising manager; Kim Gee, production manager; Britney Kirby, circulation manager.

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel



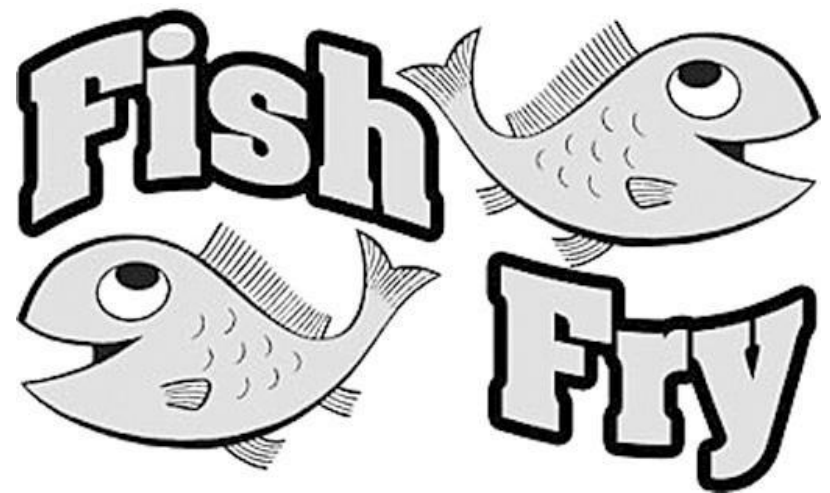
MANNEQUINS

Background: Yoder's Lamps and Antiques, Arthur, Illinois

by Don S. Chambers



In Our Community



Arthur Atwood Lions Club

Fish Sides Desserts Drinks

Arthur United Methodist Church

128 E. Illinois St.

Saturday, March 25, 2023

4pm - 7pm

Donation



Proceeds go to eye glasses, hearing aids and community projects

Ad compliments of:

Ask us about our 2023 Christmas Club Savings!



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