

Fred Bumpus: Recalling a life of faith and friendship

On Saturday, four benches were dedicated in memory of long-time Arcola banker Fred Bumpus at the Illinois Amish Heritage Center. The benches were donated by Evelyn Brandt Thomas, the Bumpus' former neighbor in Springfield. Photos of the event are in the B Section.

Sally Cavanaugh, Bumpus' daughter, provided background for the event. The following are the comments she made Saturday.

On behalf of the entire family, I want to express our sincere gratitude for honoring my dad, Fred Bumpus with these benches. This is in a beautiful location and my dad would be so pleased to have these benches where people can sit, enjoy nature and chat with someone else sitting on the bench.

Evelyn [Brandt] Thomas, thank you so much for your generosity in donating these benches in honor of my dad.

Wilmer Otto, thank you for your implementation efforts and making this happen.

What good luck my parents, Sue and Fred Bumpus, had when they moved into their first home in Springfield, Illinois, and lived across the street from Evelyn and Gordon Thomas, people that weren't just neighbors but considered extended family. They modeled what great neighbors do. What I remem-



Fred Bumpus

ber as a child growing up were neighbors that laughed a lot, shared stories, had parties in Evelyn and Gordon's basement, worked hard and always helped each other.

My dad and Evelyn had a common work bond—farming. Evelyn was starting up a fertilizer business and my dad was managing farms for the Marine Bank. My dad learned about the latest fertilizers from Evelyn and he could recommend Brandt's company because he knew Evelyn would take good care of his farmers.

My dad was an amazing guy. At first look, you knew something was different about my dad. He had polio when he was 16, which left him handicapped. His left arm was paralyzed and he wore a brace to

help with the weakness in his leg. Polio completely uprooted my dad's life plans. No doubt, he would have been a farmer following in his dad's footsteps. But instead of finishing high school in Mattoon where he wrestled, played football and basketball, he was taken to Warm Springs, Georgia, to rehabilitate his affected muscles. He spent 1½ years there, finishing high school and rehabilitation.

I've often thought what a huge adjustment that must have been. To be taken off the family farm, your friends, your girlfriend (my mom!) and put 600 miles away in Warm Springs. Way too far in those times for a weekend visit. My dad was there alone in a different culture, different food, no family or friends, and dealing with the reality that you were never going to be the same. But, my dad had the right attributes to survive and thrive. I think my dad even in his young age had three really important attributes that helped him through Warm Springs and his entire life.

First, his positive outlook. My dad always took whatever circumstances and made the most of them. My dad wasn't planning to go to college, but his physical limitations made it impossible to farm. He didn't dwell on this, but instead attended the University of Illinois and

received a degree in Agriculture Economics.

I never heard my dad complain. Even though polio affected most of his muscles, it was amazing to see my dad's creativity to get things done. He could tie his shoes, he could swim, he drove, he raised two children, coached Little League baseball, taught his grandchildren about farming and how to drive on country roads, worked 40 years in the banking business and rose to the rank of president at the Arcola bank. He couldn't run; he couldn't do a lot of things that required two arms, but even when he couldn't do it himself, he could figure out a way to get it done and keep a positive attitude.

One night while he was watering the lawn at dusk, he fell. My dad couldn't get himself up unless he had something to hold onto while he lifted himself up. Eventually, my mom went looking for him and found him lying in the yard. Once inside, my mom asked him what he was doing out there lying on the ground for all that time. My dad said, I was just looking up and enjoying the stars and moon. He didn't worry, he took whatever circumstance and made the most of it!

Secondly, My dad never met a stranger. He could talk to anyone regardless of their background. He was genuinely

interested meeting people and talking to them about their work and their family.

He was always the last one out of church because he was visiting with people. If he was at the mall with my mom, he would sit on the mall benches and get to know everyone that sat down.

Sometimes, my dad would ask for help (an attribute we can all learn from) and because of his nature—whether he knew the person or not, they would gladly help him. One time, his granddaughter wanted to go for a horse and buggy ride. He went down to where the horses were tied up and started talking until he found a ride for her!

Thirdly, my dad knew how to get things done. Even if he couldn't do it, he could see how things worked and could talk you through the job. As kids, my brother Steve and I would get aggravated that we had to do things my dad's way but we learned along the way

that there was a right way of doing a job. My dad didn't cut corners. It would have been easy to take some shortcuts especially with his physical limitations, but he believed in doing things the right way.

My dad modeled three priorities: His faith in God, his family and his community. My dad would be thrilled that these benches serve as a conduit to helping others to sit, enjoy one another, and enjoy God's creation.

These benches may encourage others to take a moment to think or pray. It may encourage others to take a moment from their busy lives to simply enjoy nature or look at the moon and stars. I think my dad would be so happy these benches will serve to help people sit and visit with those around, perhaps encourage a new friendship, or help an acquaintance when they need a listening ear.

Again, thank you Evelyn for honoring my dad in this special way.

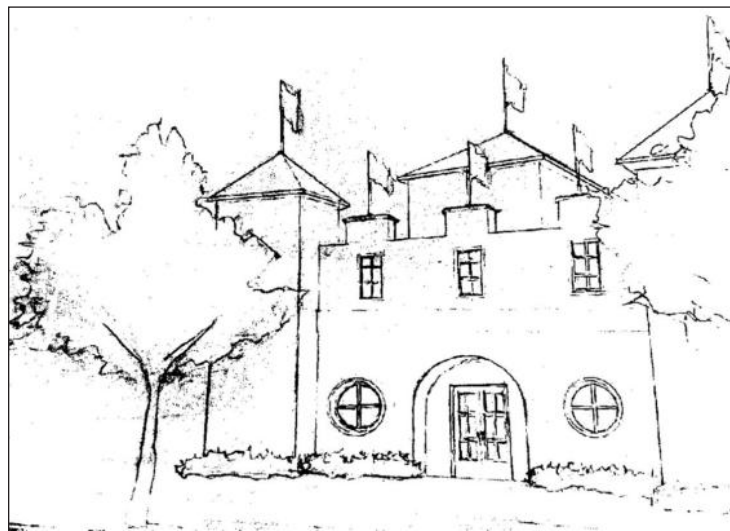
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ABOVE, A SKETCH of a proposed "broom palace" for the old Metropolitan Block downtown. At right, the 1898 Broom Corn Palace. The Metropolitan Block can be seen on the left side of image.



City Council

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He said he is close to raising the \$600,000 needed to build the palace but wants a commitment from the city to donate three of the lots on the former Metropolitan Block property. The city acquired the space after the building suffered a collapsed wall and had it razed.

Since the demolition, several proposals have been made for the property. The City Council took no action, but Monahan said he'd like to have a commitment from them before he proceeds further. He said he has a contractor lined up to build the palace, which he hopes will be owned and

managed by the Arcola Investment Corporation.

He noted that Aikman Wildlife Adventure on the former Rockome Gardens property draws 20,000 visitors annually, and the Illinois Amish Heritage Center brings in 200,000 visitors a year. He said the palace would give those tourists and others a reason to visit downtown Arcola, which he said would provide the traffic needed for businesses to fill vacant storefronts. "It's a town changer," he said.

Also Monday, Matt Henson was sworn in as alderman for Ward 3. He succeeds Homero Garza, who stepped down due to work and personal obligations.

In other business, the Council approved its annual motor fuel tax engineering agreement with Jim Crane and the estimated costs for street maintenance including seal coating.

The Council approved a change order for the Arcola Avenue force (water) main replacement for \$8,697.27 and a pay request to B&T Drainage on the same project for \$126,392.56.

The Council also approved an updated list of committee assignments necessitated by Homero Garza's departure.

SCHOOL MENUS

Below are the hot lunch and breakfast menus for the upcoming week at Arcola schools.

LUNCH

• Cold milk and peanut butter and jelly sandwich served with hot lunch daily.

Thursday, May 18 — Cheesy pasta, Italian bread, hot dog on bun, cheese stick, big mac salad, green beans, garden salad, fruit.

Friday, May 19 — Nardone's pizza, French toast chicken sandwich, yogurt, popcorn chicken salad, Italian bread, garden salad, baby carrots, ranch dressing, fruit

Monday, May 22 — Chicken patty sandwich, mozzarella dunkers, cheese stick, BLTE sandwich, Italian bread, garden salad, tater tots, fruit.

Tuesday, May 23 — Chicken nachos with white queso, grilled ham & cheese sandwich,

cheese stick, chef salad, garden salad, refried beans, fruit.

Wednesday, May 24 — Chicken patty, hot roll, yogurt, Caesar salad, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, fruit.

Thursday, May 25 — Nardoni's pizza, cheeseburger, cheese stick, popcorn chicken salad, Italian bread, garden salad, glazed carrots, fruit.

Friday, May 26 — SUMMER BREAK

BREAKFAST

• Cold milk, cold cereal, fruit & yogurt parfait, fruit muffin, assorted juice and fruit will be offered daily.

Thursday, May 18 — Scrambled eggs, toast & jelly, cereal.

Friday, May 19 — Biscuits & gravy, sausage patty, cereal, cinnamon toast.

Monday, May 22 — Waffles,

cereal, cheese stick.

Tuesday, May 23 — Sausage pancake on stick, cereal, toast & jelly.

Wednesday, May 24 — Donut, cereal, cinnamon toast.

Thursday, May 25 — Biscuits & gravy, sausage patty, cereal, muffin squares.

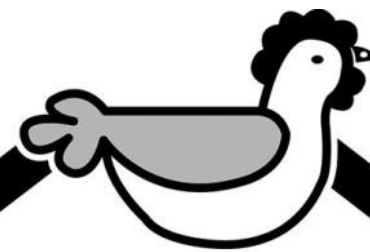
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GRAIN MARKETS

As reported by Total Grain Marketing - Arcola at 3:01 p.m., Monday, May 15, 2023.

Corn	
Cash	\$6.08
August '23 (futures)	\$5.18
Beans	
Cash	\$14.11
August '23 (futures)	\$13.33

CHECK OUT OUR DAILY SPECIALS!



BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY!

OPEN 5:30 AM- 3:00 PM EVERY DAY

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Breakfast & Lunch Specials
May 18th to May 24th

THU. 18th	BREAKFAST - 2 Eggs, Hashbrowns, 1/2 Order Biscuits & Gravy	\$6.75
	LUNCH - Meatloaf Dinner	\$8.55
FRI. 19th	BREAKFAST - Breakfast Shoe	\$8.55
	LUNCH - "All You Can Eat" Fish or Popcorn Shrimp	\$9.55
SAT. 20th	BREAKFAST - 6oz. Angus Patty	\$9.25
	LUNCH - Grilled or Breaded Pork Chops	\$9.95
SUN. 21st	BREAKFAST - Breakfast Casserole	\$8.95
	LUNCH - Beef Pot Roast	\$9.95
MON. 22nd	BREAKFAST - 2 Pancakes, 2 Patties & Coffee	\$7.95
	LUNCH - Ham & Beans	\$7.95
TUE. 23rd	BREAKFAST - Mini Country Boy	\$6.75
	LUNCH - Chef's Choice	\$?.??
WED. 24th	BREAKFAST - Silver Dollar Pancakes, 2 Eggs, 2 Bacon	\$6.75
	LUNCH - Polish Sausage and Kraut	\$7.95

Try an Omelette of Choice
Ham • Bacon • Cheese • Peppers • Onions • Mushrooms
Spinach • Sausage and/or Jalapeño Peppers
Served with potato of choice and toast or biscuits.

