

# Zion News

"Does God have a sense of humor? He must have if he created us." – Jackie Gleason

Premiering on February 5, 1967, The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour launched its relatively short-lived and controversial show on CBS television. It was loved by many and hated by many, which was indicative of the division going on in American society at the time.

After one of the episodes, hate mail came piling in because Tommy Smothers, a Jew, said 'Christ' for a laugh, which was unheard of on TV at the time. The brothers even ended up on Richard Nixon's enemy list because of their comments on the show opposing the Vietnam War.

Receiving more and more criticism for their irreverence, they took a serious moment in one of their shows to say that they believed God has a sense of humor. That if God made man in his own image, and that people like to joke and laugh, then that must be a trait, a gift, of God.

Jesus most certainly must have had a sense of humor. He was a great healer, and laughter is considered an aid in healing. The Gospels are full of his parables and he was probably also a good joke-teller. It is easy to imagine Jesus sitting around the campfire with his Disciples on a nice evening telling jokes. Someone as charismatic as Jesus must have been able to laugh and joke with people. It's too bad the Bible doesn't contain a Book of Jesus jokes.

For decades our church has especially laughed at and enjoyed church bulletin announcement bloopers. They have been used in our church newsletters and even in our

Sunday bulletins. They have been around a long time, been modernized, are now available on the Internet, and remain extremely funny. There are many of them that are sure to make you chuckle. Some classics are:

"This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar."

"Mr. Bradford was elected and has accepted the office of head deacon. We could not find a better man."

"The Senior Choir will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church."

"Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community."

"A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow."

"Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I Will Not Pass This Way Again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation."

"For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs."

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands."

Several years ago, when our bulletins were mimeographed, stencils for the church bulletin were cut by a manual typewriter. If you didn't hit the keys hard enough, sometimes letters would not get cut completely and wouldn't print clearly. So, in one Sunday bulletin, when a "P" didn't get cut completely, one of our hymns listed that day was "Just As I Am Without One Flea."

Zion's Sunday worship service begins at 9:00 AM. Everyone is welcome, and keep laughing.

## Lots of great things happening in "Our Town" Arthur

### KUDOS TO ARTHUR

Believe there is an article elsewhere in the paper about it but anyone who attended the Arthur Legacy of Love fundraiser this past Friday night at Penn Station had to feel uplifted at the support from the community that could be felt in the building. People coming together for a great cause. Nothing like it. And on that note, hope you all read Trudy's article last week in the Graphic where she talked to various Arthur citizens about why this is a great place to live. Of course you all know how I feel and I know how many of you feel about this place but it's so nice to hear and read what others have to say. Thanks Trudy for doing that! I have also learned a lot of background information I did not know from Trudy's columns about several of our long time businesses here in town and I appreciate that information too.

### OUR TOWN ARTHUR

Hope you've been watching WCIA this week for features on our town. Don't forget to stop by uptown on Friday between 4 and 7 when the crew from WCIA will be broadcasting in the downtown area. Next up will be the big Labor Day weekend with the 50th annual cheese festival and sesquicentennial celebration. Which reminds me, call the village offices at 217-543-2927 to get your reservations in for the Founders Day dinner on Saturday, September 2 at Penn Station. Plans are underway for a special guest at that event as well as displays of historical memorabilia and the opening of the time capsule. Look for a special edition of the Arthur Graphic-Clarion about mid-August with not only information about the upcoming event but also stories and pictures from the centennial celebration in 1973. And pictures from the town's history as well.

### SESUICENTENNIAL

## Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

### CALENDARS

The supply is running low but I do know there are a few available at the Arthur Welcome Center. They are \$20 and are chock full of not only pictures but lots and lots of historical information about Arthur. If you haven't got one, now is your chance!

### THE LEGEND OF NOAH ZARK, A 2X2 MYSTERY MUSICAL

Just a quick reminder that this show will be starting on July 21 and running through October 28 at Penn Station. For more information and tickets go to [findtheflamings.com](http://findtheflamings.com). Just one more thing Arthur has to offer!

### RAT RACE

Arthur Woman's Club will once again be sponsoring the Cheese Festival Rat Race to be held on Monday morning, September 4. More info on that can be found in the paper and on facebook on the Woman's Club or Graphic page. There are many different age divisions for the 5K walk and 5 and 10K runs. Events like this help the Woman's Club support many community organizations and our schools and also enables the club to provide scholarships to graduating seniors.

### MENNONITE RELIEF SALE

From the Mennonite Relief Sale facebook page: "Hello Friends, Just a reminder that

our annual ice cream social is coming up on Monday, August 7, 2023 from 5-8 pm at the Arthur Community Building. Come and join us for supper as well. We will have Pulled Pork from Pauly's BBQ along with homemade ice cream flavors and other desserts. Donations will be accepted to help with start up costs for this year's Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale which will take place on August 25-26 at the Otto Center. Join us for both!"

### SMALL WORLD STORY

Had a gathering of a few friends and family at our house the evening of the fireworks. We get a lot of cars driving up and down this street on that evening but one pulled up and stopped in front of the house. Figured it was somebody who had a question about the fireworks but it turned out to be someone who worked at Donnelly's with one of my guests. In talking with the couple in the

car it turned out that the woman, who lives in Austin, Texas, was the daughter of Louise Galbreath and granddaughter to Frosty and Menke Galbreath. Louise had a sister, Larae and a brother Zeke who was in our mom and dad's class of 1946 at Arthur High School. This lady, Linda, remembered Bud and Phyllis and the shoe store and said she spent a lot of time here in Arthur in the summers visiting her grandparents. She loved the place then and now. I know she and Janece Dicks still keep in touch. We had a nice time 'remembering' Kent would have loved it. Just the kind of thing he enjoyed...and I do too!

### VISIT SPRINGFIELD

Always many things to do in Springfield. Of course one of my favorites is the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum but you can also visit the Illinois Museum, Lincoln's home and the neighborhood where the Lincolns lived. Through August 5 between Thursday and Saturday you will find the Lincoln Troubadours traveling on the streets and in the

See **TOWN TALK** on page 3

## FARMERS

Considering retiring, downsizing, or changing careers? We are a centennial family farm with over 90 years combined experience looking to expand so the 4th generation can start farming. If you would like to help a young farmer get started farming, we would like to talk to you.

### Contact

Phone: (217)-791-0185

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### MANNEQUINS

Background: Yoder's Kitchen, Arthur, Illinois

by Don S Chambers



### Arthur History Fact #59

#### 1920

The George C. Thomsen family had a difficult time.

He and his wife, Minnie A. (Perryman) lost their first-born son when he was only 4- months old.

They then lost their next child, a daughter, when she was only 8-months old. Their second son died when he was only 14 years old.

Three years later, in 1918, their adopted son, Bruce Thomsen, was born. Many people remember Bruce who served one term as Moultrie County Sheriff, spent many years as the Arthur Chief of Police, and retired as Assistant Chief of the Sullivan P.D.

In 1920, Minnie had a song published that she had composed about the loss of a mother's son during the fighting in World War I. The title of the song is "My Boy Who Stayed in France" and its haunting lyrics and melody was sold through A.W. Perry's Songs of Sedalia, MO.

Minnie was probably a little disappointed that the publisher spelled her name incorrectly on the sheet music of her song - "by Mrs. Geo. Thomson."

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or visit [www.arthurgraphic.com](http://www.arthurgraphic.com)

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